PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-NINTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2009–2010

COMPRISING PERIOD
22 February 2010– 5 March 2010

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

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LORD STEWARD—The Earl of Dalhousie

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* *Regional Ministers (in addition to other ministerial responsibilities)*

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The Rt. Hon. Nicholas Brown, MP (Minister for the North East)
Barbara Follett, MP (Minister for the East of England)
Phil Hope, MP (Minister for the East Midlands)
The Rt. Hon. Tessa Jowell, MP (Minister for London)
The Rt. Hon. Jim Knight, MP (Minister for the South West)
Jonathan Shaw, MP (Minister for the South East)
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Phil Woolas, MP (Minister for the North West)

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY—Robert Cope

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PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR STANDARDS—John Lyon, CB

PARLIAMENTARY SECURITY CO-ORDINATOR—Peter Mason

22 February 2010

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 22 February 2010

TREASURY

Council for Financial Stability

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): I have today deposited in the Libraries of both Houses copies of the minutes of the first meeting of the Council for Financial Stability, which was held on 14 January 2010.

The Council comprises the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who chairs the Council, the Governor of the Bank of England and the Chairman of the Financial Services Authority. The Council is responsible for considering emerging risks to the financial stability of the UK and global financial system, and co-ordinating an appropriate response by the UK's authorities.

At the first meeting of the Council, the Governor of the Bank of England, the Chairman of the Financial Services Authority and I discussed the following issues:

the Bank of England Financial Stability Report published on 18 December 2009;

Financial Sector Remuneration;

Recovery and Resolution Plans.

The Financial Services Bill currently before Parliament provides for the establishment of the Council in statute, including the requirement to publish minutes of its quarterly meetings. The Government have moved to the new arrangements ahead of the passage of the Bill.

Tax Information Exchange Agreement

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): A Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) was signed with San Marino on 16 February 2010.

The text of the TIEA has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Fraudulent Use of Passports (Investigation)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): Following a formal request from the Emirati law enforcement authorities the Serious Organised Crime Agency is conducting an investigation into the apparent use of counterfeit British passports by those suspected of murdering a Hamas official in Dubai recently. The investigation is at an early stage but a number of avenues of inquiry are expected to be followed. Since this is a criminal investigation it would not be appropriate to comment on it at this stage.

Based on the limited information available, the Identity and Passport Service is satisfied that the passport records identified are genuine UK passports, issued in the UK between September 2001 and January 2006, and that the photographs and signatures provided by the Dubai authorities do not match those on IPS records. These pre-date the time when biometric UK passports started to be issued.

UK Border Agency Strategy

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): I am today publishing a new strategy entitled "Protecting our Border, Protecting the Public". Copies will be available in the Vote Office and in the Libraries of both Houses.

Since its creation in 2008, the UK Border Agency has become one of the UK's largest law enforcement bodies, operating across the UK and in 135 countries overseas. It stands at the forefront of efforts to protect the United Kingdom from overseas threats posed by dangerous people, goods and materials, while at the same time enforcing our immigration rules and facilitating the flow of legitimate travel and trade on which our economy depends.

This document both clarifies the extent of our law enforcement activities and sets out our vision as to how, over the next five years, we will develop our capability to protect the public from the harm caused by illegal immigration and smuggling. It also sets out how the agency will support the work of its criminal justice partners in tackling non-immigration crime committed by foreign nationals in the UK.

In support of the wider Government priority of tackling organised crime, the document identifies tackling organised immigration and smuggling crime as a key priority for the agency, with particular focus on the detection of class A drugs at the border and the targeting of groups that facilitate illegal entry or stay in the UK. The underlying themes of the strategy include encouraging compliance with our immigration rules, the benefits of disrupting criminal activity before it reaches our shores and greater targeting of the assets of criminal groups.

Tackling border and immigration crime and protecting the public is a responsibility that the UK Border Agency shares with law enforcement partners, such as the police and the Serious and Organised Crime Agency. The UK Border Agency has much to contribute, for example through the e-Borders programme; but success will be multi-agency. We already have strong partnership arrangements; our regional immigration crime teams for example, are comprised of both border agency and seconded police officers. We also have local immigration teams across the country that work alongside the police, HM Revenue and Customs, local authorities and other local partners to ensure compliance with, and enforce, our immigration laws.

This strategy explains our relationship with the wider law enforcement community and sets out how we will work more closely together to deter, disrupt, detect and deal with crime, in order to make the UK a hostile environment for criminals and a safer place for the public.

JUSTICE

Accommodation and Support Service

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Maria Eagle): I am today announcing that the Government have awarded a new national contract for the Bail Accommodation and Support Service to Stonham.

This follows a competitive tender conducted in accordance with Public Sector Procurement Directive (2004/8/EC). Stonham offered the best overall bid in terms of quality of service and cost relative to the other bids received and will take over the service from ClearSprings on18 June 2010 for an initial three years.

Stonham is a third sector organisation and registered charity, and one of the UK's largest providers of housing and support for vulnerable and socially excluded people.

The primary aim of the Bail Accommodation and Support Service is to provide accommodation and support services to enable the courts and prison governors to make greater use of conditional bail and early release on home detention curfew, in appropriate cases. The scheme allows defendants without an appropriate address, who would otherwise have been granted bail by the courts, to be bailed. It helps to ensure that prison is reserved for people who really need to be there: not people who the courts judge to be suitable for bail or who prison governors judge may be placed on home detention curfew.

PRIME MINISTER

Informal European Council - 11 February 2010

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I attended an informal meeting of the European Council in Brussels on 11 February.

Leaders discussed the financial situation in Greece. They fully supported Greece's commitment to ensure that the ambitious targets set in the stability programme for 2010 and the following years are met. The euro area member states committed to take determined and co-ordinated action to safeguard financial stability in the euro area as a whole.

The leaders also discussed the Europe 2020 strategy, the successor to the Lisbon strategy for jobs and growth. There was support for the ideas contained in the UK's compact for jobs and growth and agreement on the need to co-ordinate activity to achieve a higher level of growth. I look forward to the publication of the Commission's detailed proposals on 3 March.

The leaders also discussed climate change, Iran and Haiti.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Revised Code for Crown Prosecutors

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

> The review of the Code for Crown Prosecutors, which began during 2008, is now complete. Copies of the revised code have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.
>
> The code was last revised by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in 2004 and it has now been updated in order to take into account recent changes in law and practice, as well as the merger between the Crown Prosecution Service and the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office.
>
> The fundamental evidential and public interest considerations have not changed. However, the code has been amended to include: some additional public interest factors tending both in favour of and against prosecution; provision for exceptional situations which allow a decision to be made not to undertake a prosecution on public interest grounds before all the evidence in the case is available for consideration by the prosecutor; an explanation of how the CPS takes decisions in cases which require the DPP's consent; greater clarity on the prosecutor's role in considering out-of-court disposals; the introduction of an explanation of the threshold test and the circumstances in which it should be applied.
>
> The revised code also makes it clear that, for the maintenance of public confidence in the criminal justice system, in rare cases where a new look at the original decision shows it was wrong, the CPS will consider reversing a decision not to prosecute. The current wording of this aspect of the code updates and brings greater clarity to the undertaking given in a written answer on this issue by the Attorney-General on 31 March 1993. I am particularly please to welcome the DPP's decision to take a more robust approach to correcting prosecution decisions that were wrongly taken.
>
> To ensure the code's accessibility, it will be published in audio and Braille and, in addition to English and Welsh, the most commonly spoken community languages.
>
> I welcome the revised code and commend it to all prosecuting authorities. Copies of the "Code for Crown Prosecutors" will be available on the Crown Prosecution Service website which can be found at: www.cps.gov.uk.

TRANSPORT

Informal Meeting of EU Transport Ministers

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): An informal meeting of EU Transport Ministers took place on 12 February 2010 in La Coruña, Spain. I represented the United Kingdom. The two topics for discussion were aviation security and the Commission's action plan on urban mobility.

The priority on aviation security was to discuss the additional security measures introduced in member states post-Detroit and the future evolution of aviation security within the EU. The UK, along with most member states, highlighted the need for a review and reinforcement of EC current baseline measures and the application of new technologies, including but not limited to advanced imaging technology (AIT), subject to appropriate safeguards. It was noted that the European Commission would shortly be producing a report on the use of new technologies (including AITs), as a first step to a future legislative proposal to allow their use as a primary screening technology within the EU, a move supported by the UK. The presidency emphasised that the threat posed a global challenge which required a single response and that technology must play a fundamental role in EU strategy to protect the public. The presidency expressed satisfaction at the consensus reached, which would be developed in a joint strategy within the framework of the European Union. The UK will be participating in further EU, ECAC and ICAO meetings over the next few weeks and months to continue to work internationally to build on existing aviation security standards and using and developing new technology, in order to make things harder for the terrorist, but to continue to facilitate and protect genuine passenger journeys.

On the action plan on urban mobility, the priority was to prepare draft conclusions which will be considered at the Transport Council in June. The UK joined several other member states in supporting the principles of the action plan, in particular, the Commission's approach of promoting and supporting the development of sustainable urban mobility policies, while maintaining that the principle of subsidiarity is vital in the field of urban transport. The presidency emphasised the need to implement sustainable plans to promote greater integration of infrastructure planning and to find alternatives to the use of private vehicles through the use of public and non-motorised means of transport. The UK agreed that there is a role for the Commission to play in overcoming the lack of evidence surrounding urban mobility and facilitating the exchange of best practice. An observatory, as suggested in the action plan, could achieve this goal, but it is vital that it has clear terms of reference, objectives and a work programme agreed by member states. The UK position remains clear that the action plan should not lead to further legislation, and that cities and city regions should retain the freedom to pursue and implement locally relevant solutions.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 23 February 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr. Pat McFadden): Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' DEL will be increased by £1,240,523,000 from £21,829,701,000 to £23,070,224,000 and the Administration budget will be increased by £1,220,000 from £357,473,000 to £358,693,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on Resources and Capital is as set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-Voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource (£000)	279,431	531,819	-3,235,584	22,886,573	19,650,989
of which					
Administration budget*	1,220		358,693		358,693
Near cash in Resource DEL**	-67,660	464,711	-5,004,730	22,570,097	17,565,367
Capital (£000)	277,146	152,127	-209,708	3,628,943	3,419,235
Less Depreciation*** (£000)	-1,985	-47,320	-61,433	-248,599	-310,032
Total (£000)	554,592	636,626	-3,506,725	26,266,917	22,760,192

The total of the 'Administration Budget' and 'Near Cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

**Capital DEL includes items treated as Resource in Estimates and Accounts, but which are treated as Capital DEL in Budgets.

***Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes Capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

RfR1

i) a Reserve claim of £85,000,000 of voted non-cash for the Automotive Assistance Programme;

ii) a Reserve claim of £48,500,000 for Enterprise Fund Guarantees;

iii) utilisation of End Year Flexibility of £21,004,000 for Automotive Assistance Programme non-cash;

iv) utilisation of End Year Flexibility of £41,500,000 for Enterprise Fund Guarantees on-cash;

v) transfer of £500,000 to United Kingdom Trade and Investment in respect of an inward investment conference;

vi) transfer of £450,000 of non-voted expenditure to the Office of Fair Trading in respect of the Consumer White Paper;

vii) reclassification of £6,300,000 from Strategic Investment Fund capital to resource in relation to the New Industries, New Jobs agenda;

viii) virement of £1,100,000 from the non-voted RfR1 Departmental Unallocated Provision to RfR3 for increasing the number of apprenticeships by 35,000;

ix) virement of £11,700,000 from the non-voted RfR1 Departmental Unallocated Provision to non-voted expenditure by the Learning and Skills Council for increasing the number of apprenticeships by 35,000;

x) virement of £4,000,000 from support for the Post Office to non-voted expenditure by the Learning and Skills Council (RfR3);

xi) virement of £3,144,000 from Enterprise Fund Guarantees to non-voted expenditure by the Learning and Skills Council (RfR3);

xii) virement of £10,000,000 from Enterprise Fund Guarantees to Student Support (RfR3);

xiii) utilisation of £16,000,000 from the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision for voted Student Maintenance Grants (RfR3);

xiv) utilisation of £5,632,000 from the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision for non-voted expenditure by the Learning and Skills Council (RfR3);

xv) virement of £13,000,000 from non-voted expenditure by the Technology Strategy Board to the RfR2 Science Research Councils;

xvi) virement of £188,000 Government Skills and £46,000 Further Education Improvement (both RfR3) to the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision;

xvii) reclassification changes resulting from the implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards of £800,000 in non-voted expenditure for the Regional Development Agencies;

xviii) reclassification changes resulting from the implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards of £400,000 in non-voted expenditure for the Competition Commission;

xix) reclassification changes resulting from the implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards of £90,000 for Acas;

xx) reclassification changes resulting from the implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards of £12,427,000 for Capital for Enterprise Fund;

xxi) reclassification changes resulting from the implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards of £912,000 for the National Measurement Office;

xxii) reclassification changes resulting from the implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards of £2,000,000 for the Insolvency Service;

Also within the change to resource DEL, the changes to the Administration budget are (RfR1):

xxiii) transfer of £1,020,000 from the Cabinet Office in respect of the Parliamentary Counsel Office;

xxiv) transfer of £25,000 from the Cabinet Office in respect of the Skills Strategy;

xxv) reclassification changes resulting from the implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards of £175,000 for UK Trade and Investment;

RfR2

i) utilisation of End Year Flexibility of £45,464,000 for non-voted expenditure by the Medical Research Council;

ii) utilisation of End Year Flexibility of £20,536,000 for non-voted expenditure by the Natural Environment Research Council;

iii) virement of £100,000 from RfR3 to non-voted expenditure by the Research Councils in respect of the wellbeing project;

iv) virement of £50,000 from non-voted expenditure by Research Councils to voted Research-based Initiatives;

v) virement of £250,000 from voted Public Sector Research Establishments expenditure to non-voted expenditure by Research Councils;

vi) virement of £594,000 from voted Science and Society expenditure to non-voted expenditure by Research Councils.

vii) virement of £13,000,000 from the Technology Strategy Board (RfRl) to non-voted expenditure by the Research Councils;

viii) reclassification changes resulting from the implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards of £1,406,000 in non-voted expenditure for the Science Research Councils.

RfR3

i) a Reserve Claim of £50,000,000 non-cash for Tuition Fee Loans;

ii) a Reserve Claim of £83,000,000 non-cash for Maintenance Fee Loans;

iii) utilisation of End Year Flexibility of £22,800,000 for the 6 month training offer to unemployed via non-voted expenditure of the Learning and Skills Council;

iv) utilisation of End Year Flexibility of £225,376,000 to meet student support pressures;

v) utilisation of End Year Flexibility of £20,000,000 for the delivery of the Level 3 training entitlement to young people via non-voted expenditure of the Learning and Skills Council;

vi) utilisation of End Year Flexibility of £11,700,000 to provide 35,000 additional apprenticeships via non-voted expenditure of the Learning and Skills Council;

vii) utilisation of End Year Flexibility of £15,000,000 for voted non-cash relating to Career Development Loans;

viii) utilisation of End Year Flexibility of £64,000,000 for non-voted non-cash relating to the Learning and Skills Council;

ix) utilisation of End Year Flexibility of £3,000,000 for expansion of the Personal Career Development Loans scheme via non-voted expenditure of the Learning and Skills Council;

x) utilisation of End Year Flexibility of £4,624,000 for Aim Higher Challenge Initiative;

xi) utilisation of £16,000,000 from the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision for voted Student Maintenance Grants;

xii) increase in voted receipts for the Learning and Skills Council of £338,877,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families for 6th Forms, apprenticeships, Entry to Employment, Education Maintenance Allowance, offset by an increase in the Learning and Skills Council non-voted resource DEL;

xiii) increase in voted receipts for the Higher Education Funding Council for England of £895,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families to help kick start activity on Shared Services initiatives within the HE Sector, offset by an increase in the Higher Education Funding Council for England non-voted resource DEL;

xiv) increase in voted receipts for the UK Commission for Employment and Skills of £258,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families, offset by an increase in the UK Commission for Employment and Skills non-voted resource DEL;

xv) increase in voted receipts for the UK Commission for Employment and Skills of £200,000 from the Department for Work and Pensions, offset by an increase in the UK Commission for Employment and Skills non-voted resource DEL;

xvi) transfer of £2,624,000 from the Ministry of Justice in respect of Offender Learning;

xvii) transfer of £500,000 of non-voted expenditure from the Department of Energy and Climate Change to the Learning and Skills Council in respect of the National Skills Academy for Power;

xviii) transfer of £7,734,000 of non-voted expenditure from the Department for Children, Schools and Families to the UK Commission for Employment and Skills in respect of the National Vocational Qualifications Levy;

xix) transfer of £6,381,000 (of which £581,000 voted and £5,800,000 non-voted) from the Department for Work and Pensions in respect of graduate internships;

xx) virement of £15,668,000 from voted Aim Higher Challenge Initiative to non-voted expenditure;

xxi) virement of £30,876,000 from non-voted expenditure by the Learning and Skills Council to voted expenditure for the Young Person's Guarantee;

xxii) virement of £14,457,000 from Aim Higher Challenge Initiative and other Higher Education resources to non-voted expenditure;

xxiii) virement of £14,999,000 from non-voted expenditure to Maintenance Grants;

xxiv) virement of £4,310,000 from Adult Guidance and Leith Implementation to non-voted expenditure;

xxv) virement of £20,636,000 from Offender Learning to non-voted expenditure;

xxvi) transfer of £5,371,000 from the Home Office for Migration Impact Funding;

xxvii) virement of £100,000 voted expenditure to non-voted expenditure by the Science Research Councils in respect of the Wellbeing project;

xxviii) utilisation of £5,632,000 from the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision (RfRl) for non-voted expenditure by the Learning and Skills Council;

xxix) virement of £4,000,000 from RfRl support for the Post Office to non-voted expenditure by the Learning and Skills Council;

xxx) virement of £11,700,000 from the non-voted RfRl Departmental Unallocated Provision to non-voted expenditure by the Learning and Skills Council for increasing the number of apprenticeships by 35,000;

xxxi) virement of £1,100,000 from the non-voted RfRl Departmental Unallocated Provision to voted expenditure on increasing the number of apprenticeships by 35,000;

xxxii) virement of £3,144,000 from Enterprise Fund Guarantees RfRl to non-voted expenditure by the Learning and Skills Council;

xxxiii) virement of £10,000,000 from Enterprise Fund Guarantees RfR1 to voted expenditure on Student Support;

xxxiv) virement of £188,000 Government Skills and £46,000 Further Education Improvement to the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision;

xxxv) virement of £15,000,000 from non-voted expenditure by the Higher Education Funding Council for England towards student support;

xxxvi) reclassification changes resulting from the implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards of £2,531,000 in non-voted expenditure for the Student Loan Company.

The change in the capital element of the DEL arises from:

RfR1

i) a Reserve Claim of £300,000,000 for the Automotive Assistance Programme;

ii) utilisation of End Year Flexibility of £ 10,000,000 for Capital for Enterprise Fund;

iii) reclassification of £6,300,000 from Strategic Investment Fund capital to resource in relation to the New Industries, New Jobs agenda;

iv) transfer of £25,573,000 from Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment Northern Ireland for Launch Investment;

v) virement of £29,624,000 from Strategic Investment Fund to non-voted expenditure by the Learning and Skills Council under RfR3;

vi) virement of £16,103,000 from Strategic Investment Fund to the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision;

vii) virement of £3,487,000 from non-voted expenditure by the Science Research Councils to the non-voted non-Science Departmental Unallocated Provision;

viii) virement of £9,513,000 from non-voted expenditure by the Science Research Councils RfR2 to the non-voted Technology Strategy Board;

RfR2

i) Increased voted contributions of £1,900,000 from other Government Departments to fund non-voted expenditure by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council on the Institute for Animal Health;

ii) virement of £ 1,600,000 voted British Academy expenditure to non-voted expenditure by the Research Councils;

iii) virement of £3,487,000 from non-voted expenditure by the Research Councils to the non-voted non-Science Departmental Unallocated Provision;

iv) virement of £9,513,000 from non-voted expenditure by the Research Councils to the non-voted Technology Strategy Board (RfR1);

RfR3

i) utilisation of End Year Flexibility of £100,000,000 for renewal of the Further Education estate via an increase in the Learning and Skills Council non-voted DEL;

ii) increase of £2,900,000 in voted receipts from the Department for Children, Schools and Families for 14-19 activities by the Learning and Skills Council, offset by an increase in the Learning and Skills Council non-voted DEL;

iii) virement of £29,624,000 from RfR1 Strategic Investment Fund to non-voted expenditure by the Learning and Skills Council.

Office of Fair Trading

Subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Office of Fair Trading's DEL will be increased by £451,000 from £65,260,000 to £65,711,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on Resources and Capital is as set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-Voted*	*Voted*	*Non-Voted*	*Total*
Resource (£000)	-946	-	65,124	-	65,124
of which					
Administration* budget	-946	-	63,210	-	63,210
Near cash in Resource DEL*	-946		62,516	-	62,516
Capital (£000)**	1,397	-	2,728	-	2,728
Less Depreciation*** (£000)	-	-	-2,141	-	-2,141
Total (£000)	451	-	65,711	-	65,711

*The total of the 'Administration Budget' and 'Near Cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than Total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

**Capital DEL includes items treated as Resource in Estimates and Accounts, but which are treated as Capital DEL in Budgets.

***Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes Capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL (and also the Administration budget) arises from:

RfR1

i) transfer of £450,000 from the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills in respect of Consumer White Paper funding;

ii) virement of £1,397,000 from resource to capital to allow for increased capital investment in the OFT;

iii) token increase of £1,000 to allow increase in appropriations-in-aid to be included in the Estimate.

The change in the capital element of the DEL arises from:

RfR1

i) virement of £1,397,000 from resource to capital to allow for increased capital investment in the OFT.

UK Trade and Investment (Departmental Expenditure Limits)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Ian Lucas): My noble Friend the Minister with responsibility for trade, investment and small Business, Lord Davies of Abersoch, has today made the following statement:

The statement below follows the format guidance as set out in "Supply Estimates: guidance manual", available on the HMT website.

Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, UKTI's total DEL (Resource and Capital) will be increased by £3,255,000 from £96,610,000 to £99,865,000. This reflects the net transfer of £500,000 in voted resource from BIS's vote to UKTI's vote and the relevant IFRS changes. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

£'000

	Change		New DEL		
	Voted	*Non-Voted*	*Voted*	*Non-Voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	-485	-	95,877	-	95,877
Of which					
Near-cash in RDEL	-1,531	-	94,744	-	94,744
Capital DEL *	3,740	-	3,988	-	3,988
Less Depreciation **	-1,046	-	-1,212	-	-1,212
Total DEL	2,209	-	98,653	-	98,653

* Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

** Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

UKTI's vote does not include administration provision, which is included in the estimates of our parent departments, BIS and FCO.

The change in the resource element of departmental expenditure limit (DEL) sought in this supplementary estimate relate primarily to:

A decrease of £1,067,000 to allow more cover in capital due to IFRS.

An increase of £81,000 to allow for depreciation cover due to IFRS.

An increase of £500,000 as a result of the BIS transfer to UKTI for the inward investment conference.

An increase of £486,000 as a result of the estimate exclusion adjustment

An increase of a token £1,000 to allow the increase in appropriations-in-aid

The change in the capital element of DEL sought in this supplementary estimate relate primarily to:

An increase of £1,067,000 due to IFRS.

An increase of £2,673,000 transferred from BIS due to IFRS changes.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and for the Olympics, and Paymaster General (Tessa Jowell): Subject to Parliamentary approval of the spring supplementary estimate 2009-10, the Cabinet Office total departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £65,214,000 from £394,149,000 to £459,363,000.

The impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

£'000

	Winter Supplementary Estimate DEL			Changes			Spring Supplementary Estimate New DEL		
	Voted	*Non-Voted*	*Total*	*Voted*	*Non-Voted*	*Total*	*Voted*	*Non-Voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	332,954	45,015	377,969	+1,928	+7,356	+9,284	334,882	52,371	387,253
Of which:									
Administration Budget	*206,397*	-	*206,397*	*-35,847*	*+7,600*	*-28,247*	*170,550*	*7,600*	*178,150*
Near cash in RDEL	*288,176*	*45,015*	*333,191*	*+5,109*	*+8,175*	*+13,284*	*293,285*	*53,190*	*346,475*
Capital DEL**	49,985	1,000	50,985	+50,074	+2,400	+52,474	100,059	3,400	103,459
*Depreciation**	*-34,805*	-	*-34,805*	*+3,456*	-	*+3,456*	*-31,349*	-	*-31,349*
Total DEL	348,134	46,015	394,149	+55,458	+9,756	+65,214	403,592	55,771	459,363
New AME	-	10	10	-	-10	-10	-	-	-

*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

**Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

Summary of Changes in Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) and Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)

The change in the resource element of DEL, an increase of £9.284 million, comprises a £11.344 million agreed claim on the reserve, £10.083 million end year flexibility drawdown, £11.184 million budget cover transfers to other Government Departments, £0.150 million transfer to capital grant in aid to ENDPBs, a switch from to AME to DEL £0.010 million resulting from HM Treasury retracting their original advice on classification of accrued benefits holiday pay as a result of the implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and a £0.819 million reduction in wages and salaries to cover the use of provision for early departures.

The change in the capital element of DEL, an increase of £52.474 million, comprises a £0.150 million transfer from resource DEL and a £52.324 million drawdown on End Year Flexibility.

Changes in Resource DEL (RDEL)

The changes which result in a net increase in resource DEL (RDEL) of £9,284,000 are as follows:

Agreed Claim on the Reserve

A claim on the Reserve for V Matched Funding increases resource DEL and net cash requirement by £10,500,000.

A claim on the Reserve for Invest to Save Budget in the Office of the Third Sector increases resource DEL and net cash requirement by £844,000.

End Year Flexibility

A drawdown for Invest to Save budget increases resource DEL and net cash requirement by £83,000.

A drawdown for Real Help for Communities Action Plan run by the Office of the Third Sector increases resource DEL and net cash requirement by £10,000,000.

Budget cover transfers outwards

Budgetary cover transfers to various Government Departments to cover the costs of the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel (OPC) decrease resource DEL and net cash requirement by £8,003,000.

A budgetary cover transfer to the Security and Intelligence Agencies (SIA) to cover the non-cash charges upon transfer of SCOPE assets decreases non-cash resource DEL by £3,181,000.

Transfer from Voted to non-voted within Resource DEL

A switch within resource DEL from voted to non-voted administration to properly record the implementation of IFRS for a service concession arrangement of £7,600,000. The impact on net resource requirement and resource DEL is neutral. A switch is required owing to the different treatment of the service concession in estimates and budgets. For estimates purposes, this arrangement will be treated as a finance lease and for budget purposes it will be treated as an operating lease.

The Cabinet Office entered into a contract with Fujitsu Services Limited (FSL) for the provision of information and communications technology (ICT) services over a five-year term until June 2012 and this includes certain infrastructure assets for use in delivering public services that fall within the scope of IFRIC12 service concession arrangements.

Transfers from non-Voted Resource to Capital DEL

A switch from resource DEL to capital DEL to cover additional expenditure for the non-voted grant in aid to ENDPBs decreases resource DEL by £150,000. The impact on net cash requirement is neutral because the overall grant in aid to ENDPBs in the estimate remains unchanged.

Other changes

A decrease in wages and salaries to cover the use of early departure provisions by £819,000.

Switch from AME to DEL

A switch from to AME to DEL of £10,000 resulting from HM Treasury retracting their original advice on classification of accrued benefits holiday pay as a result of the IFRS implementation.

Changes in Capital DEL (CDEL)

The changes which result in a net increase in capital DEL of £52,474,000 are as follows:-

End Year Flexibility

A drawdown to cover capital grants programmes run by the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) increases capital DEL and net cash requirement by £52,324,000.

Transfers from Voted Resource to Capital DEL

A switch from resource DEL to capital DEL to cover additional expenditure for the non-voted grant in aid to ENDPBs increases capital DEL by £150,000. The impact on net cash requirement is neutral because the overall grant in aid to ENDPB non budget in the estimate remains unchanged.

UK Statistics Authority (DEL)

The Minister of State, Cabinet Office (Angela E. Smith): Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the UK Statistics Authority's total departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £630,000 from £212,246,000 to £212,876,000, and the programme budget will be increased by £630,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is as set out in the following table:

£'000

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	6,630	-6,000	212,876	-	*212,876*
of which					
Administration budget*	-	-	-		-
Near-cash in RDEL	-3,370	4,000	178,876	14,000	*192,876*
Capital**	-15	-	14,985	-	*14,985*
Less Depreciation***		-	-18,000	-	*-18,000*
Total	*6,615*	*-6,000*	*209,861*	-	*209,861*

*The total of 'Administration Budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

**Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

***Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of DEL arises from:

Take up of End-Year Flexibility (EYF) of £630,000 as set out in the Public Outturn White Paper (CM 7606).

The take up of Departmental Unallocated Provision (DUP) of £6,000,000 in order to finance in-year pressures and to meet new priorities.

The change in the programme budget arises from draw down of end of year flexibility (EYF) of £630,000 and the draw down of £6,000,000 of DUP.

Charity Commission (DEL)

The Minister of State, Cabinet Office (Angela E. Smith): Plans to change the Charity Commission's Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) and administration budget for 2009-10 are as follows.

Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Charity Commission DEL will be increased by £54,000 from £31,764,000 to £31,818,000 and the administration budget will be increased by £259,000 from £31,219,000 to £31,478,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources is as set out in the following table:

		New DEL		*£'000*
	Change	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	259	31,478	0	31,478
of which	259	31,478	0	31,478
*Administration budget**	54	30,173		30,173
Near Cash in DEL				
Capital	0	1,315	0	1,315
Depreciation**	-205	-975	0	-975
Total	54	31,818	0	31,818

* The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near cash in Resource DEL' may be greater than total resource DEL due to the definitions overlapping.

** Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in Resource DEL reflects the utilisation of £259,000 of the Commission's Resource EYF. The funds from Resource EYF will be used to improve our website, making it more accessible in support of the Government's initiative to increase online interaction with Government Departments, and to cover depreciation in respect of capital expenditure relating to our modernisation programme.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Joint Advisory Committee for Qualifications Approval

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Mr. Iain Wright): I would inform the House that the Joint Advisory Committee for Qualifications Approval has published its Annual Summary report for 2008-2009. The Committee is a non-statutory body chaired jointly by the Learning and Skills Council and Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency. The role of the committee is to provide advice to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on which qualifications should be eligible for public funding and delivery to learners aged 14-19.

Copies of the Annual Summary will be placed in the House Libraries.

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department for Children, Schools and Families Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will be increased by £696,511,000 from £56,415,027,000 to £57,111,538,000; the administration cost budget will be increased by £10,520,000 from £182,352,000 to £192,872,000. The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (OFSTED) which has a separate Estimate and DEL, will increase by £10,718,000 from £192,881,000 to £203,599,000 with the administration cost budget remaining at £28,020,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

	Resources				*Capital****			
	Change	*New DEL*	*Of which: Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Change*	*New DEL*	*Of which: Voted*	*Non-voted*
	£'000	*£'000*	*£'000*	*£'000*	*£'000*	*£'000*	*£'000*	*£'000*
RfR1	419,284	48,012,838	46,611,659	1,401,179	130,286	7,121,474	917,782	6,203,692
RfR 2	77,541	1,524,801	1,499,951	24,850	69,400	452,425	452,425	
DCSF Total	496,825	49,537,639	48,111,610	1,426,029	199,686	7,573,899	1,370,207	6,203,692
OFSTED	10,318	202,218	202,218	0	400	1,381	1,381	0
Sub-Total	507,143	49,739,857	48,313,828	1,426,029	200,086	7,575,280	1,371,588	6,203,692
**Of which Admin Budget	10,520	220,892	220,892	0	0	0	0	0
Near-cash in RDEL	507,025	49,777,524	48,310,590	1,466,934	0	0	0	0
Depreciation*	-4,202	-16,587	-11,444	-5,143	0	0	0	0
Total	502,941	49,723,270	48,302,384	1,420,886	200,086	7,575,280	1,371,588	6,203,692

*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, in the table above, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

** The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in resource DEL 'figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

***Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

Department for Children, Schools and Families

Resource DEL

The increase in the resource element of the DEL of £496,825,000 arises from an increase in the voted element of the resource DEL of £368,992,000 and an increase of £127,833,000 in the non-voted element of resource DEL.

Voted Resource DEL

The £368,992,000 increase in the voted element of the resource DEL arises from:

RFR1

A take up of End Year Flexibility of £8,800,000 for Administration costs.

A take up of End Year Flexibility of £363,221,000 for Programme costs. Transfers from the Department for Work and Pensions of £14,803,000 for Apprentices, Child Poverty, School Gates Project and for the Joint Birth Registration.

A transfer from the Cabinet Office of £529,000 for Parliamentary Counsel.

A draw down from central funds of £819,000 for implementing International Financial Reporting Standards.

A movement of £4,750,000 from RfR2 to support National Training.

A take up of Departmental Reserves of £64,105,000 for Youth programmes.

A movement of £144,667,000 to Non-voted resource DEL to support Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

A transfer to the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills of £8,100,000 for Early Years Foundation Stage inspections.

A movement of £11,028,000 to non-voted resource DEL for Partnerships for Schools.

A transfer to the Scottish Office of £642,000 for the Family Fund Trust.

A transfer to the Welsh Assembly of £372,000 for the Family Fund Trust.

A transfer to the Northern Ireland Executive of £220,000 for the Family Fund Trust.

An increase in receipts of £47,000 for Interest on 105 Loans.

RFR2

A take up of End Year Flexibility of £82,241,000 for Programme Costs.

A movement of £50,000 from non-voted resource DEL for Sure Start programmes.

A movement of £4,750,000 to RfR 1 to support National Training.

A movement of £500,000 to non-voted resource DEL for the Children's Workforce Development Council.

Non-voted resource DEL

The £127,833,000 increase in Non-voted resource DEL arises from:

A take up of End Year Flexibility of £2,017,000 to support the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency.

A take up of End Year Flexibility of £21,584,000 to support the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority.

A take up of End Year Flexibility of £5,511,000 to support the Training and Development Agency for Schools.

A take up of End Year Flexibility of £12,111,000 to support the Children's Workforce Development Council.

A movement of £144,667,000 from voted resource DEL to support Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

A movement of £11,028,000 from voted resource DEL for Partnerships for Schools.

A transfer of £2,854,000 from the Home Office for the Migration Impact Fund.

A take up of £64,105,000 from Departmental Reserves for Youth programmes. An increase of £550,000 for Consolidated Fund extra Receipts collected by the Department.

A transfer of £7,734,000 to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for the UKCES Levy. A movement of £50,000 from non-voted resource DEL for Sure Start programmes.

RFR2

A movement of £500,000 from voted resource DEL for the Children's Workforce Development Council.

Capital DEL

The increase in the capital element of the DEL of £199,686,000 arises from a £2,316,354,000 decrease in the voted element of capital DEL and an increase of £2,516,040,000 in the non-voted element of capital DEL.

Voted Capital DEL

The £2,316,354,000 decrease in the voted element of the capital DEL arises from:

RFR1

A take up of End Year Flexibility of £16,108,000 for the purchase of the Sheffield Head Office replacement.

A take up of End Year Flexibility of £55,185,000 for Children's Services through Local Authorities.

A take up of End Year Flexibility of £2,900,000 for 14-19 year olds through the Learning and Skills Council.

A take up of End Year Flexibility of £5,981,000 for Devolved Grants.

A take up of End Year Flexibility of £25,419,000 for Building Schools for the Future.

A take up of End Year Flexibility of £20,763,000 for Targeted Grants through Local Authorities.

A take up of £33,792,000 from Departmental Reserves for Children's programmes not through Local Authorities.

A take up of £15,000,000 from Departmental Reserves for Children's programmes through Local Authorities.

A take up of £6,700,000 from Departmental Reserves for the purchase of the Sheffield Head Office replacement.

A movement of £2,567,288,000 to non-voted resource DEL

A transfer of £161,000 to the Scottish Office for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

A transfer of £93,000 to the Welsh Assembly for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

A transfer of £55,000 to the Northern Ireland Executive for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

An increase in receipts of £5,000 for the disposal of vehicles.

RFR2

A take up of End Year Flexibility of £69,400,000 for Sure Start programmes through Local Authorities.

Non-voted Capital DEL

The £2,516,040,000 increase in the non-voted element of capital DEL arises from:

RFR1

A take up of End Year Flexibility of £4,244,000 for the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority.

A transfer of £6,700,000 from Departmental Reserves to voted capital DEL for the purchase of the Sheffield Head Office replacement.

A movement of £2,567,288,000 to non-voted resource DEL.

A take up of £33,792,000 from Departmental Reserves to voted capital DEL for Children's programmes not through Local Authorities.

A take up of £15,000,000 from Departmental Reserves to voted capital DEL for Children's programmes through Local Authorities.

Administration

The £10,520,000 increase in the voted element of resource DEL arises from:

A take up of End Year Flexibility of £8,800,000 to cover net pressure on departmental administration costs.

A draw down from central funds of £819,000 for implementing International Financial Reporting Standards.

A transfer from the Cabinet Office of £529,000 for Parliamentary Counsel.

Transfers from the Department for Work and Pensions of £372,000 for Child Poverty and the Joint Birth Registration.

Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills

Resource DEL

The increase in the resource element of the DEL of £10,318,000 arises from an increase in the voted element of the resource DEL of £13,833,000 and a decrease of £3,515,000 in the non-voted element of resource DEL.

Voted Resource DEL

The £13,833,000 increase in the voted element of the resource DEL arises from:

A transfer from the Department for Children, Schools and Families of £8,100,000 for Early Years Foundation Stage inspections.

A movement from non voted Departmental Unallocated Provision of £3,515,000 to invest in change projects to deliver long term efficiency.

An increase of £2,618,000 relating to IFRS treatment of a lease.

A transfer of resource to capital of £400,000 to cover changes related to IFRS treatment of a lease.

Non Voted Resource DEL

The £3,515,000 decrease in the non voted element of the resource DEL arises from:

A movement to voted resource from non voted Departmental Unallocated Provision of £3,515,000 to invest in change projects to deliver long-term efficiency.

Voted Capital DEL

The £400,000 increase in the voted element of the capital DEL arises from:

A transfer of resource to capital of £400,000 to cover changes related to IFRS treatment of a lease.

TREASURY

Government Actuary's Department (DEL)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Government Actuary's Department total DEL will be increased by £22,000 from £403,000 to £425,000. Within the total DEL change the impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

£'000

	Change		New DEL		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	1	-	543	-	543
Of which:					
Administration Budget*	1	-	543	-	543
Near-cash in RDEL*	1	338	49	345	394
Capital DEL**	-	-	217	-	217
Less Depreciation***	21	-	-335	-	-335
Total DEL	22	-	425	-	425

*The total of the 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

**Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

***Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of DEL arises from:

An increase in salaries provision of £2,201,000 from £8,638,000 to £10,839,000.

An increase in other non-staff expenditure of £450,000 from £3,907,000 to £4,357,000.

Moving to reporting under International Reporting Accounting Standards (IFRS) to record an increase of £15,000 for employer liability relating to untaken annual leave.

An Increase in Appropriations in Aid provision of £2,665,000 from £12,497,000 to £15,162,000.

An increase in Notional Audit costs of £21,000 from £35,000 to £56,000.

A decrease in the Depreciation provision of £21,000 from £356,000 to £335,000.

HM Revenue and Customs (DEL)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): Subject to parliamentary approval of the Supplementary Estimate, the HM Revenue and Customs total DEL will be increased by £68,529,000 from £4,063,850,000 to £4,132,379,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000

	Change		New DEL		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	25,206	46,286	3,703,057	397,623	4,100,680
Of which:					
Administration Budget*	24,206	46,286	3,982,092	46,286	4,028,378
Near-cash in RDEL*	22,243	46,286	3,378,640	431,771	3,810,411
Capital**	-	-	241,633	-	241,633

	£'000				
	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Less Depreciation ***	-2,963	-	-209,934	-	-209,934
Total DEL	22,243	46,286	3,734,756	397,623	4,132,379

*The total of the 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

**Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

***Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of DEL arises primarily from:

A draw down of the Modernisation Fund of £65,741,000 administration near cash to support costs for delivering modernisation and transformation across the Department.

A net increase of £2,797,000 administration non-cash to effect changes under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) where assets are in HMRC's balance sheet in Estimates and Accounts

The draw down of End Year Flexibility of £1,000,000 programme near cash in accordance with the Public Expenditure outturn White paper (CM 7606) to fund expenditure on the Glover Portal.

A transfer of £1,574,000 administration near cash from the Office of Parliamentary Counsel for counsel costs relating to pages of new legislation.

A transfer of £379,000 administration near cash from the Northern Ireland Executive for work relating to the aggregates levy.

The change in the administration budget arises from the specific administration items detailed in the resource element above.

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): Subject to Parliamentary approval of the Spring Supplementary Estimate, HM Treasury's Resource DEL will be increased by £9,401,000 from £230,747,000 to £240,148,000. The Administration Budget will be increased by £6,431,000 from £180,145,000 to £186,576,000. The impact on resources, including the administration budget is set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	9,401,000	-	219,304,000	20,844,000	240,148,000
of which:					
*Administration budget**	6,431,000	-	186,576,000	-	186,576,000
*Near cash in RDEL**	9,401,000	-	209,619,000	31,444,000	241,063,000
Capital**	-	-	154,800,000	2,142,000	156,942,000
Less: Depreciation***	-	-	-7,915,000	-	-7,915,000
Total	9,401,000	-	366,189,000	22,986,000	389,175,000

*The total of the 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

**Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

***Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The net increase in resource DEL of £9,401,000 is the net effect of the take up of Administration Budget (£3,200,000) and Programme (£2,500,000) EYF in RfR1 Section A to fund the costs of the increased workload arising from financial stability work and spending on the Money Guidance project and the draw down from the Modernisation Fund of £3,700,000 administration costs to fund costs associated with the Fast Forward IT project.

The Administration Budget is increasing by £6,431,000, which is the net effect of the EYF take up (£3,200,000) and the draw down from the Modernisation Fund (£3,700,000) outlined above, less a transfer of £469,000 to programme spending.

National Savings and Investments (DEL)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, National Savings and Investments DEL will be increased by £150,000 to £183,749. Within DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-Voted*	*Total*
Resource Del:	150	-	183,749	-	183,749
Of which:					
Administration budget:	150	-	183,749	-	183,749
Near cash in RDEL:	150	-	179,254	-	179,254
Capital	-	-	3,176	-	3,176
Depreciation*	-	-	-3,015	-	-3,015
Total	150	-	183,910	-	183,910

*Depreciation which forms part of resource DEL is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of DEL arises from:

Transfer of holiday pay accrual from Annually Managed Expenditure (AME) to DEL.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. John Denham): Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department for Communities and Local Government's Departmental Expenditure Limits for 2009-10 will change as follows:

(1) the Department for Communities and Local Government's Main Programmes DEL will be decreased by £14,110,000 from £13,673,055,000 to £13,658,945,000 and the administration budget will be increased by £1,819,000 from £273,064,000 to £274,883,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

	Change		*NEW DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	51,092	-43,919	3,942,370	609,884	4,552,254
Of which					
*Administration budget**	1,819	0	274,833	0	274,883
Near-cash in RDEL	-3,431	10,541	3,843,705	511,073	4,354,778
Capital **	-15,277	-19,723	2,128,029	7,014,741	9,142,770
Depreciation***	5,717	8,000	-30,333	-5,746	-36,079
Total	41,532	-55,642	6,040,066	7,618,879	13,658,945

*The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in resource DEL' figures may be greater than total resource DEL due to the definitions overlapping.

** Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets

***Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

(i) draw down of End of Year Flexibility of £21,000,000, comprising:

Programme Expenditure

(a) £20,000,000 for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme to help vulnerable families at risk of repossession to stay in their homes;

Administration Expenditure

(b) £1,000,000 for Central Administration in respect of the Enhanced Local Government Accrued Reporting project.

(ii) a reduction of £17,500,000, from the Departmental Unallocated Provision, to partly offset increased Fire pensions costs that resulted from backdating the revised commutation rate.

(iii) a transfer in of £3,673,000 from other government departments, comprising:

Programme Expenditure

(a) £2,854,000 from the Home Office in respect of their contribution to the Migration Impact Fund;

Administration Expenditure

(b) £819,000 from the Cabinet Office for the work of Parliamentary Counsel.

Items (iv) and (v) below have a net nil effect on the Departmental Expenditure Limit:

(iv) a net decrease in receipts of £1,549,000 comprising offsetting:

decreases in provision of:

(a) £10,000,000 for Central Administration following surrender of the Ashdown House lease.

offset by increases in provision of:

(b) £3,580,000 for the Ordnance Survey Trading Fund as a result of changes in the targeted rate of return and value of net assets employed;

(c) £1,800,000 for Central Administration (Other Current) for staff on loan to the Homes and Communities Agency;

(d) £1,768,000 for the Government Offices for work being undertaken on behalf of sponsor departments;

(e) £1,200,000 for the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre Agency as a result of a change in the target rate of return and value of net assets employed;

(f) £103,000 for Fire Control Rooms for the recovery of accommodation costs for the maintenance of the newly built Regional Control Centres from the relevant Fire Authorities.

(v) a net transfer of £26,419,000 from non-voted to voted provision comprising:

from voted to non-voted provision

Programme Expenditure

(a) £7,117,000 to the Homes and Communities Agency from Growth Areas, New Growth Points and Eco-towns in respect of:

(i) Eco-towns, to make funding awards to the four Eco-town authorities (£6,617,000);

(ii) the Advisory Team on Large Applications (ATLAS) funding (£500,000);

(b) £3,225,000 to Thames Gateway Thurrock Urban Development Corporation from FireLink (£1,508,000) and Fire Control Rooms (£1,717,000) for fixed assets' depreciation and interest costs.

(c) a transfer of £105,493,000 from various voted programmes to the Departmental Unallocated Provision.

from non-voted to voted provision

(d) a transfer of £142,254,000 from the Departmental Unallocated Provision comprising:

(i) European Regional Development Fund (£111,000,000)

(ii) Community Empowerment (£10,000,000) in respect of anti-social behaviour

(iii) Community Policy (£7,500,000) in respect of Connecting Communities

(iv) Renewing Neighbourhoods (£2,632,000) in respect of Town Centre funding

(v) Area Based Grant (£2,241,000)

(vi) Cumbria Floods Recovery (£1,000,000)

(vii) Regeneration Strategy (£441,000)

(viii) Migration Impact Fund (£400,000)

(ix) Housing Management (£200,000)

(x) Ordnance Survey Trading Fund (£3,580,000)

(xi) Residential Property Tribunal Service (£3,000,000)

(xii) Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre Agency (£260,000)

The change in the administration budget arises from a draw down of End of Year Flexibility of £1,000,000—see above section (i) and a transfer of £891,000 from the Cabinet Office—see above section (iii)).

The change in the capital element of the DEL arises from

(vi) a reduction of £35.000,000 comprising

(a) £4,000,000 (part of £44,000,000) in respect of Support for Mortgage Interest, as agreed in the 2009 Pre-Budget Report. The balance of this (£40,000,000) will be effected by HM Treasury reducing the Department's End of Year Flexibility stock in the Public Expenditure Provisional Outturn 2009-10 White Paper; and

(b) £31,000,000 to offset increased prudential borrowing cover for the Local Authority New Build programme as agreed at the 2009 Budget and extended in "Building Britain's Future."

Items (vii) and (viii) below have a net nil effect on the Departmental Expenditure Limit:

(vii) an increase in receipts of £15,937,000 offsetting increases in provision of: £10,000,000 for Capital Pooled Housing Receipts; £5,000,000 for Support for the Voluntary and Community Sector in respect of the Community Builders project and £937,000 for Central Administration for the purchase of carbon reduction efficient lighting systems and reimbursement by reclaim to Department of Energy and Climate Change.

(viii) a net transfer of £15,277,000 from voted to non-voted provision comprising

from voted to non-voted provision

(a) £15,500,000 from Growth Areas, New Growth Points and Eco-Towns to the Homes and Communities Agency to enable it to make funding awards to the four Eco-town authorities.

(b) a transfer of £25,057,000 to the Departmental Unallocated Provision comprising Support for Voluntary & Community Sector Sustainability (£12,784,000); Capital Pooled Housing Receipts (£10,000,000); Fire and Rescue Service Improvement Programme (£2,139,000); and Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (£134,000).

from non-voted to voted provision

(c) transfers from the Departmental Unallocated Provision of £25,280,000 comprising:

(i) Fire Control Rooms (£24,963,000). The additional funding is required due to the delay in the transfer of the Regional Control Centre leases for the West Midlands and East of England;

(ii) Fire and Rescue Service Improvement Programme (£315,000) for replacement of assets lost and damaged in the fire at the Fire Service College and

(iii) European Regional Development Fund (£2,000) for token subhead to reinstate central and local authority spending from the European Regional Development Fund.

(2) The Department for Communities and Local Government's Local Government DEL will be increased by £30,000,000 from £25,761,145,000 to £25,791,145,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

	£'000				
	Change		*NEW DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	-32,300	300	25,446,700	118,351	25,565,051
Of which					
*Administration budget**					
Near cash in RDEL	-32,300	300	25,446,700	117,261	25,563,961
Capital**	62,000	0	226,122	978	227,100
Depreciation***	0	0	0	-1,006	-1,006
Total	29,700	300	25,672,822	118,323	25,791,145

*The total 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in resource DEL' figures may be greater than total resource DEL due to the definitions overlapping.

** Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets

*** Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

(i) a transfer of £300,000 from voted to non-voted comprising a transfer from Improvement, Transformation and Efficiency to the Standards Board for England to meet restructuring costs.

(ii) a switch of £32,000,000 from Resource to Capital for the Local Government Public Service Agreement Performance Fund to meet commitments.

The change in the capital element of the DEL arises from:

(i) a draw down of End Year Flexibility of £30,000,000 to meet commitments for the Local Government Public Service Agreement Performance Fund.

(ii) a switch of £32,000,000 to Capital from Resource for the Local Government Public Service Agreement Performance Fund to meet commitments.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): Subject to Parliamentary approval, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's total Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will be increased by £78,600,000 from £2,060,368,000 to £2,138,968,000. Within the DEL change the impact on resource and capital are set out in the following table:

Departmental Expenditure Limits

	Change		*New*	*DEL*	*£'000*
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	469	16,957	103,804	1,602,459	1,706,263
of which					
*Administration budget**			55,133		55,133
Near-cash in RDEL	469	-6,895	94,425	1,350,986	1,445,411
Capital**	53,477	7,949	-730,727	1,274,053	543,326
Less Depreciation***	-	-252	-6,405	-104,216	-110,621
Total	53,946	24,654	-633,328	2,772,296	2,138,968

*The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL' figures are greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

**Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets

***Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

A claim on the Reserve of £23,500,000 for provisions associated with the decommissioning costs of the Olympic Stadium; an addition of £352,000 non-cash, to cover costs associated with a change in accounting policy as a consequence on implementing International Finance Reporting Standards (IFRS), less a switch of funding from resource to capital of £6,426,000.

The capital element of the DEL has increased by £61,426,000 as a result of:

The drawdown of £30,000,000 End Year Flexibility (EYF) to meet agreed spending plans; the drawdown of £25,000,000 EYF to cover access to reserves by our Non-Departmental Public Bodies; and, an additional £6,426,000 arising from the resource to capital switch detailed above.

DEFENCE

MOD Votes A Annual Estimate 2010-11

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): The "Ministry of Defence Votes A Estimate 2010-11" will be laid before the House on 23 February 2010 as HC 304. This outlines the maximum numbers of personnel to be maintained for each service in the armed forces during financial year 2010-11.

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): Subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Ministry of Defence departmental expenditure limits will be increased by £284,565,000 (voted and non-voted) from £39,596,111,000 to £39,880,676,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

£000s

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-Voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	-33,261	222,266	38,660,976	439,112	39,100,088
Of which					
Administration Budget	*211*	-	*2,237,948*	-	*2,237,948*
Near-cash in RDEL	*-100,650*	*250,355*	*26,277,470*	*668,551*	*26,946,021*
Capital	178,695	-	9,227,484	851	9,228,335
Depreciation*	-83,265		-8,438,227	-9,520	-8,447,747
Total	62,169	222,396	39,450,233	430,443	39,880,676

* Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending; to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The changes to the resource and capital elements of the DEL arise from:

an increase of £100,000,000 direct resource near-cash relief in RfR1, as agreed with Treasury;

resource transfers into RfR1 from the Cabinet Office being their contribution to MOD security costs of £6,000,000, transfers from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of £6,695,000 and £1,965,000 respectively for the Counter Narcotics Ground Force, a transfer of £211,000 from the Cabinet Office being their contribution to the Parliamentary Counsel cost, a transfer of £1,002,000 from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office being their contribution to the Information Assurance Technical Programme; and a transfer of £1,832,000 from the Department for International Development being their contribution to the Global Pool (RfR2);

a net decrease in the cash release of provisions of £17,324,000 charged to RDEL (with a corresponding increase in the provision charge scored in AME) to reflect the latest forecast of out-turn;

a further increase in Fiscal Capital Resource of £5,000,000 to reflect Treasury relief for lower capital receipts in Northern Ireland than originally forecasted;

a net resource increase of £13,430,000 in non-cash depreciation and cost of capital costs to reflect the latest forecast cost of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan;

to reallocate the net resource impact of £35,000,000 for employee benefits under IFRS trigger point 3 from AME to resource DEL, reflecting the revised control framework for this item;

to reflect the revised, and reduced, resource impact assessment of disclosing three PFI contracts as finance leases under IAS 17, being a credit of £21,000,000;

to reflect the revised resource impact of a reduced service charge relating to Annington Homes of £18,000,000;

to reflect the non-cash resource impact, in the amount of £26,000,000, of implementing IFRS 17 on three PFI off balance sheet contracts now reassessed as finance leases;

to reflect the IFRS reduced near-cash service charge of £178,000,000 impact of disclosing IFRIC 12 PFI assets on MOD's balance sheet;

to increase non-budget grants in aid (non-voted) for the Council of Reserve Forces and Cadets Association of £4,199,000 in the Central TLB and £4,943,000 in Land TLB;

£210,000 for the Marine and Sea Cadets Society by reducing resource DEL current costs and increasing non-budget grants in aid with no overall impact on resource;

to increase non-budget funding by £10,991,000 from within resource DEL to reflect the latest forecast of out-turn for the Navy Command, Land Forces and Central TLBs;

to revise sub-head provisions to reflect resource and capital revisions in allocations between holders to match required defence outputs, with no overall impact on DEL;

To request a net increase in capital DEL of £160,695,000 to reflect the latest forecast cost of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The changes to resource DEL and capital DEL will lead to an increased net cash requirement of £935,052,000.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Miliband): Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department of Energy and Climate Change Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will decrease by £2,283,000 from £3,102,677,000 to £3,100,394,000 and the Administration Budget will be increased by £9,047,000 from £93,512,000 to £102,559,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is as set out in the following table:

£'000	*Change*		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-Voted*	*Voted*	*Non-Voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	-31,215	145,592	-735,996	1,955,536	1,219,540
Of which:					

£'000	*Change*		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-Voted*	*Voted*	*Non-Voted*	*Total*
Administration Budget*	9,047	-	102,559	-	102,559
Near Cash in Resource DEL*	-31,215	145,592	-759,528	2,000,030	1,240,502
Capital DEL**	10,864	-127,524	693,065	1,194,880	1,887,945
Less Depreciation***	-	-	-2,987	-4,104	-7,091
Total DEL	-20,351	18,068	-45,918	3,146,312	3,100,394

*The total of 'Administration Budget' and 'Near Cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

**Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

***Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL in the table above, since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Resource DEL

The increase in the Resource element of the DEL of £114,377,000 arises from a decrease in the voted element of Resource DEL of £31,215,000 and an increase of £145,592,000 in the non-voted element of Resource DEL.

Voted Resource DEL

The £31,215,000 decrease in the voted element of Resource DEL arises from:

The take up of Departmental Unallocated Provision of £22,800,000.

A transfer of £343,000 from the Cabinet Office for Parliamentary Counsel Office costs.

An increase to DEL of £211,000 following the adoption of International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 for accrued employee benefits.

An increase of £40,748,000 in Nuclear Decommissioning Authority operating appropriations-in-aid.

A transfer to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of £12,500,000 for cost pressures on Common Agricultural Policy disallowance.

An increase of £821,000 in operating appropriations-in-aid for the Committee on Climate Change.

A transfer to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills of £500,000 for the National Skills Academy for Power.

Non-voted Resource DEL

The £145,592,000 increase in non-voted Resource DEL arises from:

A transfer from Capital to Resource DEL for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority of £126,823,000.

An increase of £40,748,000 in Nuclear Decommissioning Authority DEL offsetting the increase in appropriations-in-aid.

An increase of £821,000 in Committee on Climate Change DEL offsetting the increase in appropriations-in-aid.

The take up in voted Resource DEL of Departmental Unallocated Provision of £22,800,000.

Capital DEL

The decrease in the Capital element of the DEL of £116,660,000 arises from an increase in the voted element of Capital DEL of £10,864,000 and a decrease of £127,524,000 in the non-voted element of Capital DEL.

Voted Capital DEL

The £10,864,000 increase in the voted element of Capital DEL arises from:

An increase from central funds of £50,000,000 for the 2020 European Fund for Energy, Climate Change and Infrastructure ('Marguerite').

An increase of £39,401,000 in Nuclear Decommissioning Authority non-operating appropriations-in-aid formerly scored as Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts.

A transfer from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of £265,000 for the Anaerobic Digestion Demonstration Programme.

Non-voted Capital DEL

The £127,524,000 decrease in the non-voted element of Capital DEL arises from:

A transfer from Capital to Resource DEL for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority of £126,823,000.

An increase of £40,102,000 in Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts for the repayment of Offshore Wind Capital Grants.

A decrease of £39,401,000 in Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, now scored as non-operating appropriations-in-aid.

Administration budget

The increase of £9,047,000 in the Administration Budget arises from:

A transfer from Programme DEL of £7,500,000 for DECC transition costs.

A transfer from Programme DEL of £1,000,000 for consumer levies administration costs.

A transfer of £343,000 from the Cabinet Office for Parliamentary Counsel Office costs.

An increase to Administration DEL of £204,000 following the adoption of IAS19 for accrued employee benefits.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Evidence Investment Strategy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Dan Norris): I have arranged for copies of DEFRA's new Evidence Investment Strategy (EIS) which provides an agenda to prioritise and manage DEFRA's investment in evidence from 2010 to 2013 and beyond to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. It highlights the need to focus efforts on the interlinked challenges of climate change, protecting ecosystems and developing a sustainable food supply. The strategy will ensure that DEFRA has access to the best evidence when developing and implementing policies. The strategy is available at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/science/how/strategy.htm

DEFRA's Chief Scientific Adviser led a detailed review of DEFRA's evidence activities and worked in collaboration with teams across DEFRA and the evidence landscape (including the executive agencies, non departmental public bodies and key external stakeholders) to develop the strategy. The EIS will build on the progress made by DEFRA's first evidence strategy, Our approach to Evidence and Innovation for 2005-08, encouraging better use of evidence for policy-making.

The strategy contains a number of recommendations including the importance of working with others, both internally and through partnerships with the research councils and other Government Departments, and developing skills, expertise and capabilities which will improve DEFRA's gathering and use of evidence.

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Dan Norris): Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £41,608,000 (1.32 per cent.) from £3,149,133,000 to £3,190,741,000. The administration budget will be increased by £200,000 (0.07 per cent.) from £304,296,000 to £304,496,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

£000s

	Change			*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Total*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	404,844	-392,971	11,873	4,405,871	-1,684,991	2,720,880
Of which						
Administration Budget	*200*	-	*200*	*304,496*	-	*304,496*
Near-cash in Resource DEL	*389,547*	*-377,674*	*11,873*	*4,138,436*	*-1,752,988*	*2,385,448*
Capital	-8,305	38,040	29,735	262,071	432,179	694,250
Depreciation*	9,450	-9,450	-	-115,820	-108,569	-224,389
Total	405,989	-364,381	41,608	4,552,122	-1,361,381	3,190,741

*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL of £11,873,000 arises from: (i) a transfer of £30,000,000 programme from resource to capital for the Environment Agency; (ii) a £30,000,000 increase to programme following an agreement with HM Treasury to bring forward part of next year's ring-fenced disallowance provision to cover a Rural Payments Agency (RPA) disallowance issue that has materialised this year; (iii) a transfer of £827,000 programme to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland for transmissible spongiform encephalopathy responsibility; (iv) a transfer of £12,500,000 programme from the Department of Energy and Climate Change, returning funding DEFRA previously provided for the Carbon Capture and Storage Front-End Engineering Design (FEED) studies; and (v) a transfer of £200,000 administration from the Cabinet Office for the Office of Parliamentary Counsel.

There has also been a transfer within the resource element of the DEL of £355,481,000 from voted to non-voted. This relates to increases in income and expenditure for the EU funded schemes. This change is DEL neutral, but the expenditure is classed as voted, whereas the income is classed as non-voted consolidated fund extra receipts.

There has been a transfer of the remaining £26,000,000 Departmental Unallocated Provision from non-voted to voted to cover in part an RPA disallowance issue that has materialised this year. The remainder of the transfers within resource DEL, between voted and non-voted, primarily relate to budget transfers from the core Department (voted) to the Department's Non Departmental Public Bodies (non-voted).

The change in the capital element of the DEL of £29,735,000 arises from: (i) a transfer of £30,000,000 from resource to capital for the Environment Agency; and (ii) a transfer of £265,000 to the Department of Energy and Climate Change for anaerobic digestion of manure and food waste demonstration projects.

There has also been a transfer within the capital element of the DEL of £8,040,000 from voted to non-voted relating to budget transfers from the core Department (voted) to the Department's Non Departmental Public Bodies (non-voted).

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Hong Kong

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): The latest report on the implementation of the Sino-British joint declaration on Hong Kong was published today. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House. A copy of the report is also available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website: www.fco.gov.uk. The report covers the period from 1 July to 31 December 2009. I commend the report to the House.

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £94,354,000 from £2,246,893,000 to £2,341,247,000. The administration budget will be increased by £29,444,000 from £426,845,000 to £456,289,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£000

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-Voted*	*Voted*	*Non-Voted*	*Total*
Resource	107,354	-	2,237,987	3,000	2,240,987
Of which					
Administration budget *	*29,444*	-	*456,289*	-	*456,289*
Near-cash in Resource DEL	*107,354*	-	*2,027,913*	*16,000*	*2,043,913*
Capital**	-13,000	-	203,310	-	203,310
Depreciation ***	-	-	-103,050	-	-103,050
Total	94,354	-	2,338,247	3,000	2,341,247

* The total of Administration budget and Near-cash in Resource DEL figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

** Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

*** Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

Request for Resources 1

Administration

I. Take-up of £5,700,000 administration costs in respect of restructuring.

II. A claim on the Reserve of £6,000,000 administration costs in respect of modernisation of the FCO.

III. A transfer of £11,000 administration from the Cabinet Office in respect of charging for legal services by the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel.

IV. A transfer of £1,002,000 administration to MOD in respect of the FCO's contribution to the information assurance technical programme.

V. A transfer of £16,000,000 capital to administration in respect of exchange rate pressures. This amount includes £3,000,000 transferred from Capital EYF.

VI. A transfer of £2,735,000 other current AME to administration DEL in respect of FCO staff costs for accrued annual leave.

Programme

I. A claim on the Reserve of £44,464,000 current grants in respect of the International Subscriptions cost-sharing agreement.

II. A claim on the Reserve of £25,060,000 other current in respect of Consular Premiums.

III. A transfer of £5,500,000 other current from DFID in respect of the Returns and Reintegration Fund.

IV. A transfer of £77,000 other current from DFID in respect of the Iraqi LE staff assistance scheme.

V. A transfer of £10,000 other current from DFID in respect of the Low Carbon High Growth Strategic Programme Fund.

VI. A transfer of £6,695,000 other current to MOD in respect of counter-narcotics work in Afghanistan.

VII. A transfer of £1,965,000 other current to MOD in respect of counter-narcotics work in Afghanistan.

VIII. A transfer of £500,000 other current to the Security and Intelligence Agencies for expansion and capability.

IX. A transfer of £2,000,000 from RfR1 to RfR2 for FCO's contribution to the Helmand uplift for Stabilisation and Conflict Prevention.

Capital

I. Take up of £3,000,000 Capital EYF in respect of a transfer to administration costs.

II. A transfer of £ 16,000,000 capital to administration in respect of exchange rate pressures.

Request for Resources 2

Programme

I. A benefit to HMT Reserve of £14,000,000 in respect of Stabilisation and Conflict Prevention.

II. A transfer of £14,700,000 from DFID in respect of discretionary peacekeeping funds.

III. A transfer of £11,259,000 from DFID in respect of Stabilisation and Conflict Prevention.

IV. A transfer of £2,000,000 from RfR1 to RfR2 for FCO's contribution to the Helmand uplift for Stabilisation and Conflict Prevention.

Sri Lanka

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): I would like to update the House on recent developments in the political and humanitarian situations in Sri Lanka.

Since the end of the fighting last May between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam there has been a unique opportunity for the Government to work with all communities in Sri Lanka to achieve lasting peace through genuine national reconciliation. The UK has continued to make the case that this can only come about through a fully inclusive political process to address the underlying causes of the conflict.

Elections

Following the presidential election of 26 January the Prime Minister wrote to President Rajapakse and I have spoken with Foreign Minister Bogollogama. Together with others, such as the Secretaries-General of the UN and the Commonwealth and the EU High Representative, we have urged President Rajapakse to use his new mandate to make real progress on national reconciliation. The President has made some positive comments about the need to focus on the concerns of Tamils and to discuss the devolution of powers. Setting out his plans for political reform would be a welcome next step.

Election monitors and the Election Commissioner were united in declaring the result of the election valid. But they voiced concerns about aspects of the election campaign, including incidences of violence and allegations of electoral malpractice. We have been encouraging the Government to address these concerns by conducting thorough investigations into any allegations and to encourage an atmosphere of calm by reaching out to those who did not support the President. There have, however, been worrying reports of a clampdown on those who did not support President Rajapakse. The arrest of his principal challenger in the election, Sarath Fonseka, has done nothing to ease tensions. The Government needs to ensure that all detainees, including Fonseka, are treated strictly in accordance with Sri Lankan law.

The next opportunity for Sri Lankans to elect their political representatives will be the Parliamentary elections that are expected to take place on 8 April. The Prime Minister has encouraged the President to ensure that measures are in place to remove the scope for allegations of malpractice. I have underlined to Foreign Minister Bogollogama the importance of making it possible for all Sri Lankans to vote. While we welcomed the high national turnout in the presidential election of 70 per cent., this dropped to less than 30 per cent. in the north and east. An election in which all communities can select their representatives of choice could advance the prospects for genuine reconciliation.

We will continue to engage with the Government and other political parties in Sri Lanka to encourage a process of political reform. In recognition of the potentially positive contribution they could make to that process, we also continue to engage with the Tamil, Muslim and Sinhalese communities based in the UK. This includes the activities of the right hon. Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne) MP, the Prime Minister's special envoy for Sri Lanka. I will be addressing the forthcoming London conference of the global Tamil Forum to encourage a forward-looking, constructive approach.

Accountability

The EU has made clear its view that a credible process to address alleged violations of international humanitarian law by both sides during the conflict could also contribute to the process of reconciliation. The US State Department report on the conflict in Sri Lanka and the statement by Philip Alston, the UN special rapporteur for extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, underline the need for a credible and independent investigation. We continue to make this clear to the Sri Lankan Government, most recently when I spoke to Foreign Minister Bogollogama earlier this month. We await with interest the findings of the committee set up by President Rajapakse to look into the State Department report.

Human Rights and GSP+

A third way in which the GoSL could encourage genuine reconciliation would be through greater promotion and protection of human rights, including media freedoms, and by tackling the culture of impunity. I have reinforced to Foreign Minister Bogollogama the importance of producing and implementing a human rights national action plan, as was agreed at the UN Human Rights Council periodic review of Sri Lanka in 2008.

On 19 October the European Commission published its report into Sri Lanka's compliance with three of the conventions linked to Sri Lanka being a beneficiary of the GSP+ scheme. The report was clear about Sri Lanka's failings in its implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and the convention on the rights of the child. The report reinforces our concerns about the human rights situation in Sri Lanka and we share the Commission's assessment.

On 15 February the UK and other member states supported the Commission's formal recommendation to withdraw GSP+ benefits from Sri Lanka. This will come into effect on 15 August, six months following the date of the decision. We continue to urge the Government to engage constructively with the European Commission and to take all necessary steps to address the serious concerns highlighted in the Commission's report.

Humanitarian Situation

The UK's most immediate priority since the end of the conflict has been to work for an improvement in the humanitarian situation. By the end of the fighting there were over 280,000 internally displaced people in camps in the north of Sri Lanka. We have been advocating an improvement in conditions inside the camps and for IDPs to be able to return to their home areas as soon as it is safe to do so. Since September 2008, the UK, through the Department for International Development, has also allocated £12.5 million to the humanitarian response.

Conditions in the camps have improved and there has been progress in the return of IDPs. UN official figures estimate that as of 15 January around 187,500 people have been released from the camps, of which 158,500 have been able to return to their home areas, while 29,000 vulnerable people have been housed with host families or in institutions. It is important that vulnerable people have been housed with host families or in institutions. It is important that IDPs continue to be able to return to their home areas as soon as it is safe to do so.

The Government's announcement on 1 December that all IDPs still in the camps would be granted freedom of movement was a positive step. However, some restrictions remain in place and we will continue to encourage the Government to ease those.

We will continue to work with international partners and with the Sri Lankan Government to encourage progress on reconciliation, accountability and human rights as a basis for the lasting peace all Sri Lankans want and deserve.

HEALTH

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): I am publishing today the "Consultation on Services for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease in England".

Since 2005 the Department, the National Health Service and other key stakeholders have been working together to identify the best ways to improve care and outcomes for those people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and to reduce the overall prevalence of the condition. Following this work we have developed a set of recommendations for the NHS, further action for the Department and we are now consulting with stakeholders. This document represents the final consultation stage before we publish the final strategy.

We estimate that over three million people in England live with this condition. One person dies in England of COPD every 20 minutes—a loss of about 25,000 lives every year. COPD is also the second most common cause of emergency admission and the fifth largest cause for readmission to hospital. It is also one of the most costly, in terms of acute hospital care.

It has therefore become clear that we need to change our approach to prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of the condition. As we have developed the strategy we have had extensive engagement with people with COPD and their carers

The strategy offers a real opportunity to make a difference to people with COPD and their carers. Successful implementation will require ongoing commitment and ambition and the engagement and involvement of all stakeholders.

The strategy does not define how each aspect of care should be delivered. We think services need to be sensitively planned and appropriately delivered in response to the needs of each local community. However, the strategy is designed to support local service plans within the NHS, and to complement other related national and local initiatives. This will include the clinical guidelines developed by NICE and other broader health promotion initiatives such as the national tobacco control programme. With better co-ordinated and integrated services, we can provide care that better meets the complex needs of people with COPD and meets their expectations.

Because of the magnitude of the burden of asthma, we have given separate attention to that condition within this strategy, highlighting where there are synergies in the approach to the care of these conditions and where there are differences. It also highlights some aspects of good asthma services.

"Consultation on Services for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) in England" has been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office.

The consultation will run from 23 February to 5 April 2010.

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Mike O'Brien): Subject to the necessary Supplementary Estimates, the Department of Health's element of the Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will increase by £2[illegible]6,000 from £105,349,954,000 to £105,564,260,000 and the Administration Cost Limit increases by £4,426,000 from £213,765,000 to £218,191,000. The Food Standards Agency DEL decreases by £1,500,000 from £134,987,000 to £133,487,000. The overall DEL including the Food Standards Agency will increase by £212,806,000 from £105,484,941,000 to £105,697,747,000. The impact on resource and capital are set out in the following table:

	CHANGE		*New DEL*		
	Voted £m	*Non-voted £m*	*Voted £m*	*Non-voted £m*	*Total £m*
Department of Health					
Resource DEL	377.033	-37.925	101,795.986	-1,507.778	100,288.208
of which:					
*Administration Budget **	*4.426*	-	*218.191*	-	*218.191*
Near-cash in Resource DEL	*250.449*	*-28.276*	*96,935.132*	*-208.409*	*96,726.723*
Capital DEL	11.646	-136.448	2,650.151	2,625.901	5,276.052
Total Department of Health DEL	388.679	-174.373	104,446.137	1,118.123	105,564.260
Depreciation **	30.042	-109.422	-902.961	-177.166	-1,080.127
Total Department of Health spending (after adjustment)	418.721	-283.795	103,543.176	940.957	104,484.133
Food Standards Agency					
Resource DEL	2.000	-3.500	136.371	-3.500	132.871
of which:					
*Administration Budget **	*2.000*		*51.894*		*51.894*
Near-cash in Resource DEL			137.214		137.214
Capital DEL			0.616		0.616
Total Food Standards Agency DEL	2.000		136.987	-3.500	133.487
Depreciation **			-1.908		-1.908
Total Food Standards Agency spending (after adjustment)	2.000	-3.500	135.079	-3.500	131.579

* The total of "administration budget" and "Near-cash in Resource DEL" figures may well be greater than the total resource DEL, due to definitions overlapping.

** Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since the capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The Department of Health DEL has increased by £214,306,000 made up of:

a transfer of £568,000 from the Ministry of Justice, mainly for prison healthcare services;

a transfer of £2,854,000 from the Home Office as the Department's share of a contribution to the migration impact fund;

a transfer of £280,000 to the Department for International Development for the healthy living fund;

a transfer from the Cabinet Office of £426,000 (administration costs) for services of the Parliamentary Counsel; and

an increase of £210,738,000 for changes in accounting policies resulting from the introduction of International Financial Reporting Standards.

In addition, the following internal transfers were made:

a transfer of £4,000,000 from programme to administration costs to meet additional costs arising from the Swine Flu programme, reform of Care and Support and the NHS Next Stage Review; and

a transfer from the capital budget to the revenue budget of £200,000,000 to meet existing commitments on pandemic flu.

The Department of Health's administration cost limit has increased by £4,426,000 as detailed above.

The change to the Food Standards Agency element of the DEL is due to:

an increase in the administration budget of £2,000,000 to fund reorganisation within FSA headquarters; and

a decrease of £3,500,000 programme cost identified savings in relation to research and campaign activity.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): Subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimates, the Home Office's

Departmental expenditure limits for 2009-10 will be increased by £135,354,000 from £10,242,220,000 to £10,377,574,000 and the administration budget will be reduced by £276,293,000 from £675,540,000 to £399,247,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	46,564	(85,434)	8,589,149	980,335	9,569,484
Of which:					
Administration budget *	(241,071)	(35,222)	246,339	152,908	399,247
Near-cash in RDEL *	41,153	(92,736)	8,418,215	930,329	9,348,544
Capital **	189,300	(300)	726,561	280,520	1,007,081
Less depreciation ***	(4,976)	(9,800)	(133,867)	(65,124)	(198,991)
Total	230,888	(95,534)	9,181,843	1,195,731	10,377,574

* The total of the "Administration Budget" and "Near-cash in Resource DEL" figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

**Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

***Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

£000's

(a)	*Total*	*o/w near cash*	*o/w Admin*
The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:	*(38,870)*	*(51,583)*	*(276,293)*
Classification Changes:	*([illegible],944)*	*(37,944)*	*(262,836)*
Treatment of recording employee benefits in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) moves from AME to programme DEL. The sections affected are:			
Identity and Passport Service (section F).	500	500	
UK Border Agency (section E).	453	453	
Central Services (section G).	59	59	
Police (section A).	28	28	
Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (section D).	16	16	
Programme switched to capital within Police (section A) to meet forecast capital expenditure.	(9,000)	(9,000)	
Programme switched to capital within the Departmental Unallocated Provision (DUP) to meet forecast capital expenditure. See section (b) for the capital DUP drawdown.	(30,000)	(30,000)	
Re-classification of admin into programme as a result of the winter supplementary machinery of government transfer from HM Revenue and Customs.			(262,836)
Transfers to other Government Departments:	*(29,598)*	*(29,247)*	*(14,792)*
Admin from Central Services (section G) to the Ministry of Justice to fund shared central support expenditure.	(14,792)	(14,441)	(14,792)
Programme from the DUP to fund Migration Impact expenditure to the following departments:			
Department for Business Innovation and Skills	(5,371)	(5,371)	
Department for Children Schools and Families	(2,854)	(2,854)	
Department of Health	(2,854)	(2,854)	
Department for Communities and Local Government	(2,854)	(2,854)	
Reduction in programme in the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (section D) representing a decrease in the balance of counter terrorism funding returned to the Home Office by the Cabinet Office.	(600)	(600)	
Programme from Central Services (section G) to the Ministry of Justice for science and technology costs.	(273)	(273)	
Transfers from other government departments:	*1,232*	*1,232*	*1,232*
Admin from the Cabinet Office to Central Services (section G) for the Parliamentary Counsel Office.	856	856	856

			£000's
(a)	*Total*	*o/w near cash*	*o/w Admin*
Increase in admin in Central Services (section G) following the reversal of a previous transfer to the Ministry of Justice for payroll services.	376	376	376
End Year Flexibility:	*17,051*	*17,051*	*0*
Programme to section E to meet UKBA's strategic objective to "secure our borders and control migration for the benefit of our country".	17,051	17,051	
Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS):	*10,389*	*(2,675)*	*103*
Increase in programme for the UK Border Agency (section E) to reflect the accounting treatment of finance leases under IFRS.	10,308	(3,370)	
Change in admin and programme for the UK Border Agency (section E) as a result of a revised forecast of the cost of reporting employee benefits in accordance with IFRS.	81	695	103

(b)	*Capital*	*Total*
The change in the capital element of the DEL arises from:		*189,000*
End Year Flexibility:		*150,000*
Capital to the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (section D) to meet strategic delivery objective "Protect the public from terrorism".		68,555
Capital to the Police (section A) to meet the strategic delivery objective 'Lead visible, responsive and accountable policing'.		50,953
Capital to the United Kingdom Border Agency (section E) to meet strategic delivery objective "Secure our borders and control migration for the benefit of the country".		30,492
Classification changes:		*39,000*
Programme switched to capital within Police (section A) to meet forecast capital expenditure.		9,000
Drawdown of capital in the DUP to meet the latest forecast budgeted expenditure in the following areas:		
Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (section D).		4,811
Office for Security and Counter Terrorism grants (section K).		8,889
UK Border Agency (section E).		10,000
Identity and Passport Services (section F).		6,300

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EU Development Ministers Meeting (Segovia)

The Minister of State, Department for International Development (Mr. Gareth Thomas): The informal meeting of EU Development Ministers, organised by the Spanish presidency, took place in Segovia, Spain, on 17 and 18 February. I represented the UK.

The items covered were as follows:

The Millennium Development Goals Review Summit

This session focused on EU preparations for the MDGs summit in New York in September 2010. The new Development Commissioner, Andris Piebalgs, and the presidency underlined the importance of the summit to galvanising support for poverty reduction before the 2015 MDG target date. The UK, alongside the Commission, a number of other member states and civil society representatives, argued that the EU should demonstrate global leadership through a comprehensive package that would include commitments to those goals most at risk, particularly maternal and child health, food security and education. The Commission welcomed the clear steer from Ministers and will reflect this in its proposals planned to be put to the May and June Foreign Affairs Councils. The overall EU position will then go to the June European Council for agreement by leaders.

Financing for Development

I underlined the importance of honouring our EU Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments. While alternative financing mechanisms, including from the private sector, are likely to form an increasingly significant part of meeting the global development and climate challenges, ODA will remain the core contribution and our pledges must be met. I shared the UK's experience of increasing ODA to a position where we will meet the 0.7 per cent. GNI target by 2013 and there was considerable interest in our draft legislation to make this commitment a legal obligation. Several member states highlighted the challenge of meeting the targets in the current economic environment, though all member states reaffirmed the importance of the commitment. The Commission and presidency will work further on suggestions for enhancing the accountability of member states to meet their pledges including an annual review of progress by Heads of Government and delivery plans to 0.7 per cent. for member states.

By special invitation, Norway presented on its work on combating tax evasion and tax havens. In response to the presentation and a Commission discussion paper, Ministers noted the importance of mobilising domestic resources in developing partner countries as a key step in reducing dependency on aid and harnessing finance for poverty reduction. In this context, economic growth, support for improving partner countries' tax systems, tackling illegal financial flows and corruption and addressing tax havens where noted as particularly important. The French led a call for the presidency to ensure that innovative proposals on taxation and financing were discussed by both Development and Finance Ministers given the shared interest. The Commission will draft a paper for Ministers at the May Foreign Affairs Council on enhancing work on tackling tax evasion in developing countries.

More effective EU development assistance

Alongside the quantity of aid, we discussed improving the quality of that aid. The Commission presented work on the improving the complementarity and co-ordination of EU aid.

Transatlantic relations

The new Administrator of the United States' Agency for International Development (USAID), Dr. Shah, presented his priorities to the group. These were: a strong focus on the MDGs, particularly how technology can be deployed in support of development; maternal health; food security; and education. Dr. Shah emphasised his desire to build an effective and practical partnership with the EU on development issues, something already in evidence and underlined by the response to the Haiti earthquake. EU Ministers welcomed his appointment and pledged to take forward this important relationship on a range of issues, not least the 2010 MDG summit.

Haiti

Ministers discussed the situation in Haiti, both in terms of immediate response and ensuring better co-ordination for the reconstruction. Edmund Mullet, UN Special Representative to Haiti, Kristalina Georgieva, the new EU Humanitarian Commissioner and Dr. Shah provided details of their own efforts and their assessment of need. I joined my EU colleagues in recognising the tireless efforts of UN staff, Commission and other aid workers in Haiti

I argued for a thorough review of the humanitarian system over the last five years, learning lessons from Haiti and other disasters and drawing up recommendations to improve future responses. This proposal gained support from a number of Ministers and this will help to build the growing consensus behind the review.

I also held a series of useful bilateral meetings discussing for example reform of the humanitarian system, Haiti, the MDGs and aid financing with, amongst others, Dirk Neibel, the German Development Minister, Dr. Shah of USAID and Commissioner Piebalgs.

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department for International Development's departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be reduced by £33,098,000 from £6,757,774,000 to £6,726,607,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		*£'000*
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	243,797	-276,895	4,542,361	836,065	5,378,926
of which					
Administration budget*	3,341	-3,341	159,950	-	159,950
Near-cash in RDEL	233,047	-266,145	4,437,111	846,815	5,283,926
Capital DEL**	9,750	-9,750	1,365,750	-	1,365,750
Less Depreciation***	1,931	-	-18,069	-	-18,069
Total DEL	255,478	-286,645	5,890,542	836,065	6,726,607

*The total of the 'Administration Budget' and 'Near Cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

**Capital DEL includes items treated as Resource in Estimates and Accounts, but which are treated as Capital DEL in Budgets.

***Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes Capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The net change in the Resource element of DEL arises from:

Additions

£280,000 transferred from the Department of Health in respect of International Health Links Funding Scheme.

Reductions

£77,000 transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of payments to locally engaged staff in Iraq.

£5,500,000 transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of the Returns and Reintegration Fund.

£25,959,000 transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of the Conflict Prevention Pool.

£1,832,000 transferred to the Ministry of Defence in respect of the Conflict Prevention Pool.

£10,000 transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of the Low Carbon High Growth Strategic Programme Fund.

There is no net change in the Capital element of DEL.

JUSTICE

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Northern Ireland Court Service (NICS) and The National Archives (TNA) Total Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will be increased as follows:

Total DEL for MoJ (RfR1, 2 & 3) is increased by £101,298,000 from £9,828,762,000 to £9,930,060,000 and the administration budget has increased by £23,282,000 from £435,920,000 to £459,202,000.

Total DEL for the NICS has increased by £17,000,000 from £147,556,000 to £164,556,000.

Total DEL for the TNA has increased by £1,000 from £44,151,000 to £44,152,000.

Within the Total DEL change for MoJ (RfR1, 2 & 3), the impact on resource and capital is as set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted £'000	*Non-voted £'000*	*Voted £'000*	*Non-voted £'000*	*Total £'000*
Resource DEL:	36,361	32,676	5,772,369	3,680,095	9,452,464
Of which:					
Administration *	23,282	0	459,202	0	459,202
Near Cash in Resource DEL	18,823	50,754	4,883,323	3,885,532	8,768,855
Capital DEL**	16,706	16,373	849,570	52,043	901,613
Depreciation ***	(1,690)	872	(414,213)	(9,804)	(424,017)
Total DEL	51,377	49,921	6,207,726	3,722,334	9,930,060

*The total of the 'Administration Budget' and 'Near Cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

**Capital DEL includes items treated as Resource in Estimates and Accounts, but which are treated as Capital DEL in Budgets.

***Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes Capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

1) The change in the Resource and Capital DEL for MoJ arises from:

Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit

The change in the resource element of DEL arises from:

Movements in Voted Expenditure

Request for Resources 1

i. An increase in voted expenditure of £7,000,000 as a result of drawdown of End Year Flexibility (EYF) funding relating to the workforce modernisation programme.

ii. An increase in voted expenditure of £14,792,000 as a result of a budget transfer from the Home Office in relation to accommodation costs.

iii. An increase in voted expenditure of £13,088,000 as a result of the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

iv. An increase in voted expenditure of £34,000,000 as a result of drawdown of reserve claim from HM Treasury relating to prison capacity programme.

v. An increase in voted expenditure of £1,166,000 to the transfer of funding in relation to the Parliamentary Council Office from the Cabinet Office

vi. An increase in voted expenditure of £1,000,000 in relation to non-cash funding from the Supreme Court.

vii. An increase in voted expenditure of £273,000 in relation to mail and messenger services received from the Home Office.

viii. An increase in voted expenditure of £86,000 in relation to funding for Estate Agents Appeals Panel and the creation of the Consumer Credit Appeals Tribunals from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (DBIS).

ix. A decrease in voted expenditure of £568,000 in relation to healthcare services for additional prison places transferred to the Department of Health (DoH).

x. A decrease in voted expenditure of £2,624,000 in relation to education services for additional prison places transferred to the DBIS.

xi. A decrease in voted expenditure of £500,000 in relation to costs associated with Corporate Manslaughter Act transferred to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

xii. A decrease in voted expenditure of £470,000 in relation to near cash transferred to Supreme Court.

Request for Resources 2

xiii. An increase in near cash resource funding of £1,200,000 in relation to drawdown of EYF.

xiv. An increase in near cash resource funding of £28,000 as a result of the adoption of IFRS.

Request for Resource 3

xv. An increase in near cash resource funding of £230,000 in relation to transfer of costs relating to the Parliamentary Counsel Office from the Cabinet Office.

xvi. An increase in near cash resource funding of £116,000 as a result of the adoption of IFRS.

Movements in Non-Voted Expenditure

Request for Resources 1

i. An increase in non-voted expenditure of £220,000 as result of the adoption of IFRS.

ii. An increase in non-voted expenditure offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £61,400,000 relating to increased spend of the Legal Services Commission.

iii. A decrease in non-voted expenditure offset by a increase in voted expenditure of £3,501,000 relating to increase in the attributable income receivable by the Legal Services Board.

iv. A decrease in non-voted expenditure offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £6,124,000 relating to increase in the attributable income receivable by the Office of Legal Complaints.

v. A decrease in non-voted expenditure offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £14,704,000 relating to decrease in spend of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority.

vi. A decrease in non-voted expenditure offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £4,650,000 relating to decrease in spend of the Youth Justice Board.

vii. An increase in non-voted expenditure offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £35,000 relating to increased spend of the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit

The change in the capital element of the Departmental Expenditure Limit arises from:

Request for Resources 1

Movements in Voted Expenditure

i. An increase of £33,000,000 in Capital DEL in respect of the Prison Capacity Programme.

ii. An increase of £79,000 in Capital DEL as a result of the implementation of IFRS.

Movements in Non-Voted Expenditure

i. An increase in non-voted expenditure offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £12,900,000 relating to increased spend of the Legal Services Commission.

ii. An increase in non-voted expenditure offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £3,450,000 relating to increase in the attributable income receivable by the Office of Legal Complaints.

iii. An increase in non-voted expenditure offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £500,000 relating to decrease in spend of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority.

iv. An increase in non-voted expenditure offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £47,000 relating to decrease in spend of the Parole Board.

v. A decrease in non-voted expenditure offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £524,000 relating to increased spend of the National Probation Service Local Area Boards.

Administration Costs

The movement in the administration cost limit is as a result of the following changes.

Request for Resources 1

i. An increase in voted expenditure of £7,000,000 as a result of drawdown of EYF funding from HM Treasury relating to the workforce modernisation funding.

ii. An increase in voted expenditure of £14,792,000 as a result of a budget transfer from the Home Office in relation to accommodation costs.

iii. An increase in voted expenditure of £241,000 as result of the adoption of IFRS.

Request for Resources 2

iv. An increase in near cash resource funding of £1,200,000 in relation to drawdown of EYF.

v. An increase in near cash resource funding of £28,000 as a result of the adoption of IFRS.

Request for Resource 3

vi. An increase in near cash resource funding of £230,000 in relation to transfer of costs relating to the Parliamentary Counsel Office from the Cabinet Office.

vii. An increase in near cash resource funding of £116,000 as a result of the adoption of IFRS.

2) The change in the Resource and Capital DEL for the Northern Ireland Court Service (NICS) arises from:

Within the Total DEL change for Northern Ireland Court Service, the impact on resources and capital is as set out in the following table:

	Change		New DEL		
	Voted £'000	Non-voted £'000	Voted £'000	Non-voted £'000	Total £'000
Resource DEL:	-	17,000	58,391	111,300	169,691
Of which:					
Administration*	(2,000)		(574)		(574)
Near cash in Resource DEL	-	17,000	40,451	110,800	151,251
Capital DEL**	-	-	6,000	-	6,000
Depreciation***			(10,694)	(441)	(11,135)
Total DEL		17,000	53,697	110,859	164,556

*The total of the 'Administration Budget' and 'Near Cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

**Capital DEL includes items treated as Resource in Estimates and Accounts, but which are treated as Capital DEL in Budgets.

***Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes Capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit

Movements in Non Voted Expenditure

i. This arises from the take up of a DEL Reserve claim of £17,000,000 to reflect the increase in the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission Baseline to cover the projected shortfall in legal aid expenditure.

Movements in Administration Expenditure

i. The change in the administration budget arises from a £2,000,000 increase in civil court fee income. This will be offset against additional related costs to dispose of civil court business. The appropriations-in-aid are classified as administrative income and so the additional fee income will reduce the administration cost limit by £2,000,000.

3) The change in the Resource and Capital DEL for The National Archives (TNA) arises from:

Within the Total DEL change for The National Archives, the impact on resources and capital is as set out in the following table:

	Change		New DEL		
	Voted £'000	Non-voted £'000	Voted £'000	Non-voted £'000	Total £'000
Resource DEL:	(2,135)	0	46,595	0	46,595
Of which:					
Administration*	0	0	0	0	0
Near cash in Resource DEL	(2,135)	150	34,844	150	34,994
Capital DEL**	2,136	0	4,236	0	4,236
Depreciation***	0	0	(6,679)	0	(6,679)
Total DEL	1	0	44,152	0	44,152

*The total of the 'Administration Budget' and 'Near Cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

**Capital DEL includes items treated as Resource in Estimates and Accounts, but which are treated as Capital DEL in Budgets.

***Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes Capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Movements in Voted Expenditure

Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit

i. An increase in near cash resource funding of £4,695,000 and associated increase in A in A of £4,694,000 to reflect higher than expected levels of activity and income from the 1911 Census information, Digital Continuity and the Civil Pages Project.

ii. A decrease of £2,136,000 in resource provision representing the additional spend on improvements to facilities at our Kew building including data storage facilities and air conditioning units.

Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit

i. An increase in Capital funding of £2,136,000 representing the additional spend on improvements to facilities at Kew, including data storage facilities and air conditioning. This is offset by the decrease in resource funding referred to above.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Department Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): Subject to Parliamentary approval the Northern Ireland Office will be taking a 2009-10 spring supplementary estimate. The effect this will have is to increase the NIO's total DEL by £161,881,000 from £1,205,742,000 to £1,367,623,000.

£'000

	Charge		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	66,619	123,563	359,487	1,020,157	1,379,644
Admin Budget	*(2,247)*	*-*	*71,679*	*-*	*71,679*
Near cash	*28,217*	*72,962*	*277,153*	*793,141*	*1,070,294*
Capital	12,288	(12,288)	36,526	40,177	76,703
Depreciation	(28,240)	(61)	(47,489)	(41,235)	(88,724)
Total	50,667	111,214	348,524	1,019,099	1,367,623

The change in Total DEL of £161,881,000 relates to the drawdown of end year flexibility (EYF) of £100,335,000 (all resource), increase in PSNI provisions of £88,000,000, resource budget transfers with other Government Departments totalling £847,000 and funding of £1,000,000 from HM Treasury for the impact of international financial reporting standards (IFRS) on property, plant and equipment. This has been offset by a change in non-cash costs of £28,301,000.

The EYF drawdown is required to supplement CSR07 baselines in Central Administration, Political Directorate, Public Prosecution Service, Criminal Justice Directorate, Policing-Non Severance, Northern Ireland Prison Service, Compensation Agency and Policing and Security Directorate.

The administration budget will decrease by £2,247,000 from £73,926,000 to £71,679,000. This is due to the reclassification of £2,610,000 from administration to programme for the Northern Ireland Prison Service and resource budget transfers of £315,000 from the Department of Finance and Personnel, Northern Ireland for accommodation costs, £98,000 from the Cabinet Office for Parliamentary Counsel charges and £50,000 to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland for healthcare costs.

The Northern Ireland Executive DEL will increase by £740,207,000 from £9,283,643,000 to £10,023,850,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

£'000

	Change	*New DEL*
Resource DEL	634,464	9,023,819
Of which:		
Near Cash	483,082	8,551,148
Capital DEL	127,009	1,210,614
Resource DEL + Capital DEL	761,473	10,234,433
Less Depreciation	21,266	210,583
Total DEL net of depreciation	740,207	10,023,850

The increase in the Northern Ireland Executive DEL takes account of the following changes:

The take up of end year flexibility of £135,000,000 (£35,000,000 near cash and £100,000,000 capital);

Additions of £23,827,000 (-£49,092,000 near cash, £20,337,000 non cash and £52,582,000 capital) following IFRS changes;

A budget reclassification of £497,200,000 (near cash) in respect of NHS pensions;

An addition of £131,045,000 (non cash) in respect of provisions for equal pay; and

Budget cover transfers to other Government Departments of £25,599,000 broken down as follows:

i. Transfer of £827,000 from DEFRA for BSE-OTM;

ii. Transfer of £275,000 from DCSF for the NSPCC Expansion Grant;

iii. Transfers of £749,000 to the Northern Ireland Office for accommodation and other central services;

iv. Transfer of £379,000 to HMRC in respect of the Aggregates Levy; and

v. Transfer of £25,573,000 to Department of Business, Innovation and Skills in respect of industrial support.

SCOTLAND

Department Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr. Jim Murphy): Subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary Supplementary Estimates, the Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) provision for the administration of the Scotland Office will be increased by £1,200,000 and takes account of the following routine adjustment:

- a take-up of near cash End Year Flexibility of £1,200,000.

The increase will be added to the planned total of public expenditure spending commitments in the current financial year.

The Scotland DEL will be increased by £18,005,000 from £29,552,282,000 to £29,570,287,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

£'000

	Change	*New DEL*
Resource DEL	17,844	25,640,423
Of which:		
Near Cash	838	24,572,419
Capital DEL	161	3,929,864
Resource DEL + Capital DEL	18,005	29,570,287
Less Depreciation & Impairments	16,932	525,069
Total DEL	1,073	29,045,218

The increase in the Scotland DEL takes account of the following adjustments to the Scottish Government provision:

International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) classification changes of £17,006,000.

The DEL increase also includes the following changes:

a transfer of £196,000 from the Department for Work and Pensions in respect of the School Gates Project.

a transfer of £803,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families for the NSPCC Expansion Grant.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Attorney-General's total DEL will be increased by £9,646,000 from £744,966,000 to £754,612,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are set out in the following table:

£'000

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	6,478	1,419	736,333	12,317	748,650
of which:					
Administration budget *	1,081		69,704		69,704
Near-cash in RDEL *	6,478	1,419	723,960	13,990	737,[illegible]
Capital DEL **	1,749		14,479		14,479
Less Depreciation ***			8,517		8,517
Total DEL	8,227	1,419	742,295	12,317	754,612

* The total of "Administration budget" and "'Near-cash in resource DEL" figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

** capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as capital DEL in budgets.

*** Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The Crown Prosecution Service's element of the Attorney-General's total DEL will be increased by £1,975,000 from £688,335,000 to £690,310,000.

The change in Resource DEL arises from:

The reclassification of contract costs of £6,419,000 from voted to non-voted DEL following the requirement to restate under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

The take up of Departmental Unallocated Provision of £5,000,000 from non-voted to voted DEL to increase the spending on the prosecution of criminal cases

A budgetary transfer of £500,000 from the Ministry of Justice to help fund the delivery of the Corporate Manslaughter Act 2007

A budgetary transfer of £25,000 to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to contribute towards the implementation of the Skills Strategy for Government.

The change in capital DEL arises from the take up of £1,500,000 from end-year flexibility (EYF) to meet the up-front capital costs of the relocation of CPS Headquarters.

The Serious Fraud Office's element of the Attorney-General's total DEL will be increased by £6,590,000 from £40,932,000 to £47,522,000.

The change in Resource DEL arises from:

The take up of £1,138,000 of modernisation funding to complete the SFO's transformation programme which is designed to help the SFO to meet its key challenges of:

increasingly sophisticated frauds and instances of corruption;

working more flexibly and efficiently;

focusing on the needs of victims; and

working collaboratively with other Government Departments, agencies and organisations as appropriate.

The take up of £4,952,000 in blockbuster funding relating to UN Oil for Food cases to enable the SFO to continue with the investigation and prosecution of outstanding cases in 2009-10.

The take up of £500,000 from EYF to deliver work early at a reduced cost.

There is also a transfer of £249,000 from resource to capital spending to cover increased National Fraud Authority capital costs

The HM Procurator General and Treasury Solicitor element of the Attorney-General's total DEL will be increased by £1,081,000 from £15,699,000 to £16,780,000. This increase will occur within the administration budget which will increase from £13,630,000 to £14,711,000.

The change in Resource DEL arises from:

Take up £775,000 of near-cash administration costs resource end-year flexibility (EYF) to meet the cost of the Attorney-General's office and to support the transformation of the Attorney-General's Departments

Other changes in near-cash DEL spending of £306,000 to meet the increased charge to lease costs following the requirement to restate under IFRS accounting rules.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Transport departmental expenditure limit (DEL) for 2009-10 will be increased by £22,464,000 from £14,137,677,000 to £14,160,141,000 and the administration budget will be increased by £4,520,000 from £275,172,000 to £279,692,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital, are as set out in the following table:

£'000

	Change		*NEW DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	+802,705	-91,359	6,597,715	561,185	7,158,900
Of which:					
Administration budget	+5,020	500	279,692	0	279,692
Near-cash in RDEL	-92,053	-277,093	5,331,272	404,136	5,735,408
Capital	+342,438	-42,693	7,163,175	1,100:172	8,263,347
Depreciation *	-988,627	0	-1,230,332	-31,774	-1,262,106
Total	+156,516	-134,052	12,530,558	1,629,583	14,160,141

* Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Resource Change: Administration (total increase of £4,520,000)

Voted: total net increase of £5,020,000

RfR1

(i) Transfer of £520,000 near-cash from the Cabinet Office for Parliamentary Counsel costs;

(ii) HM Treasury agreed reclassification of £4,000,000 from programme near-cash to reflect the revised treatment of shared services expenditure;

(iii) Transfer of £500,000 near-cash from non-voted departmental unallocated provision for administration pressures; and

(iv) Transfer of £1,159,000 near-cash transferred to non-voted in respect of Highways Agency increased utilisation of provisions; offset by £1,159,000 non-cash transferred from non-voted.

Non Voted: total net decrease of £500,000

(i) Transfer of £500,000 near-cash to voted provision; and

(ii) Transfer of £1,159,000 non-cash to voted; offset by £1,159,000 near-cash transferred from voted.

Resource Change: Programme (total increase of £706,826,000) Voted: total net increase of £797,685,000

(i) Increase of £989,371,000 non-cash in accordance with Treasury guidance for the introduction of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for Highways Agency depreciation;

(ii) A net transfer of £186,631 000 near-cash from non-voted for:

i. Railways—Support for Passenger Rail Services (£228,263,000 including £200,188,000 take up of departmental unallocated provision and £28,075,000 from headroom).

ii. Highways Agency for work on the strategic network transferred from headroom arising from revised forecast utilisation of provisions (£8,118,000);

iii. Highways Agency use of Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts within the departmental expenditure limit (£4,750,000); partially offset by

iv. Transfer of London and Continental Railways near cash provision for domestic capacity charges to non voted (£54,500,000);

(iii) Decrease of £278,545,000 near-cash in accordance with Treasury guidance for the introduction of IFRS for the reclassification of Highways Agency renewals to Capital (£279,745,000); partially offset by increase for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in respect of their annual leave liability (£1,200,000);

(iv) A net transfer of £95,772,000 non-cash to non-voted; and

(v) HM Treasury agreed reclassification of £4,000,000 from programme near cash to administration.

Non-Voted: total net decrease of £90,859,000

(i) A net transfer of £186,631,000 near-cash to voted provision; partially offset by

(ii) Increase of £91,121,000 non-cash, offset by £91,121,000 near-cash to reflect the capitalisation element of Highways Agency renewals in accordance with Treasury guidance for the introduction of IFRS; and

(iii) A net transfer of £95,772,000 non-cash from voted provision for:

a. London and Continental Railways pensions liability (£80,000,000) from Highways Agency headroom;

b. Highways Agency to forecast provisions offset by an increase in forecast utilisation

of provisions (£8,118,000);

c. To the departmental unallocated provision from voted headroom (£7,654,000).

Capital Change: (total net increase of £299,745,000)

Voted: total net increase of £342,438,000

RfR1

(i) Take up of £20,000,000 end year flexibility for London and Continental Railways Eurostar (UK) Ltd recapitalisation;

(ii) Increase of £279,745,000 in accordance with Treasury guidance for the introduction of IFRS for the reclassification of Highways Agency renewals to Capital; and

(iii) Net transfer of £42,693,000 from non voted for:

a. London and Continental Railways Eurostar (UK) Ltd recapitalisation (£20,000,000) from departmental unallocated provision;

b. Green buses (£10,000,000) from departmental unallocated provision;

c. GLA transport grants (£13,000,000); partially offset by

(iv) A transfer from voted railways provision to Rail Heritage Committee (£307,000).

Non-Voted: total net decrease of £42,693,000

(i) A net transfer of £42,693,000 to voted provision.

WALES

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Peter Hain): The Wales Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will be increased by £456,459,000 from £14,995,229,000 to £15,451,688,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

£'000	*Change*	*New DEL*
Resource DEL	346,332	13,902,677
Of which:		
Near Cash	118,954	13,133,986
Capital DEL	216,955	1,.939,166
Resource DEL + Capital DEL	563,287	15,841,843
Less Depreciation	106,828	390,155
Total DEL	456,459	15,451,688

The increase is a result of:

(a) Take-up of £138,094,000 Near-Cash EYF;

(b) Take-up of £87,000,000 Non-Cash EYF;

(c) Take-up of £106,200,000 Capital EYF;

(d) Capital re-profiling of £90,755,000 from 2010-11 financial year;

(e) Switch of £20,000,000 from Near-Cash to Capital;

(f) A reclassification of NHS depreciation to DEL of £140,378,000

(g) A transfer of £395,000 Near-Cash from Department of Work and Pensions under the School Gates Employment Support Initiative;

(h) A transfer of £372,000 Near-Cash and £93,000 Capital from Department for Children, Schools and Families for the NSPCC Expansion Grant;

In addition, Annually Managed Expenditure increases by £6,294,000 to £688,050,000

There will be an increase in non- budget spending of £14,200,000 for a housing stock transfer for Gwynedd.

DEL provision for the Wales Office increases by £230,000 from £7,483,000 to £7,713,000 following a transfer of provision from the Parliamentary Counsel Office.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Government Equalities Office (DEL)

The Minister of State, Government Equalities Office (Maria Eagle): Subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Government Equalities Office Departmental Expenditure Limit will increase by £12,000 from £80,182,000 to £80,194,000 and the administration budget will increase from £9,605,000 to £9,617,000.

Within the Departmental Expenditure Limit change, the impact on resource and capital is as set out in the following table:

	Change			*New DEL*		*£'000s*
	Voted	*Non -Voted*	*Total*	*Voted*	*Non-Voted*	*Limit*
Resource	12		12	17,818	60,960	78,778
of which						
Administration*	12		12	9,617		9,617
Near Cash*	12		12	17,817	60,651	78,468
Capital					1,980	1,980
Depreciation**					-564	-564
Total	12		12	17,818	62,376	80,194

*The total of "Administration budget" and "Near cash in Resource DEL" figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL due to the definitions overlapping

**Depreciation, which forms part of resource Departmental Expenditure Limit, is excluded from the total Departmental Expenditure Limit since the capital Departmental Expenditure Limit includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit

The change in the Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit arises from an increase in relation to the recording of International Financial Reporting Standards for accrued employee benefits. The increase arises from the change in staff numbers between 2008-9 and 2009-10 and planned increased amounts of annual leave carried over by staff into 2010-11.

There has been an increase in appropriation in aid for operating activities and this is offset by increased expenditure. This reflects the activities of the Women's National Commission which has been making its services available to other government departments and agencies in line with the review of the Women's National Commission.

Administration Costs Limit

This increases by £12,000 due to adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards for accrued employee benefits.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Yvette Cooper): Subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department for Work and Pensions Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit will increase by £318,266,000 to £9,123,522,000 and the Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit will remain unchanged at £284,517,000. The Administration budget will increase by £38,170,000 to £6,242,507,000.

	Change £k			*New Departmental Expenditure Limit £k*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Total*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	1,041,453	-723,187	318,266	6,922,236	2,201,286	9,123,522
of which:						
Administration	759,354	-721,184	38,170	5,560,083	682,424	6,242,507
Near-cash	1,041,453	-723,187	318,266	6,660,506	2,234,712	8,895,218
Capital	-421	421	0	283,288	1,229	284,517
Depreciation*	0	0	0	234,194	1,105	235,299
Total DEL	1,041,032	-722,766	318,266	6,971,330	2,201,410	9,172,740

*Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes Capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit

The change in the resource element of the Departmental Expenditure Limit arises from:

Request for Resources 1

i. An increase in Appropriations in Aid of £9,000 not offset by an increase in expenditure.

Request for Resources 2

ii. A reserve claim of £108,050,000 from the dual-key funding package announced in the 2008 Pre Budget Report.

iii. A reserve claim of £86,000,000 (£12,000,000 Administration and £74,000,000 Other Current) from the "six month offer" funding package made available to the department following the Employment Summit in January 2009.

iv. A reserve claim of £6,000,000 (£1,000,000 Administration and £5,000,000 Other Current) to support expenditure on the Pathways under 25.

v. Budget transfers of £196,000 to the Scottish Government, £395,000 to the Welsh Assembly and £431,000 to the

Department for Children, Schools and Families to assist with Jobcentre support in schools for unemployed parents.

vi. A budget transfer of £6,381,000 to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in relation to Backing Young Britain. This increases the number of internships that are available to non-graduates.

vii. A budget transfer of £12,500,000 to the Department for Children, Schools and Families in relation to the white paper "Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment". This increases the number of apprenticeships that are available for 16 and 17 year olds.

viii. Budget transfers to the Department for Children, Schools and Families of £1,500,000 (Other Current) for the Co-ordinated Support for Separating Parents Child Poverty Pilot and £110,000 (Administration) for the Child Poverty Support Unit.

ix. A budget transfer of £262,000 to the Department for Children Schools and Families in relation to Joint Birth Registration work.

Request for Resources 3

x. A reserve claim of £25,000,000 from the department's Modernisation Fund.

Request for Resources 5

xi. A reserve claim of £115,000,000 from the department's Modernisation Fund.

Movements between Voted and Non-Voted Budgets

xii. An increase in voted funding of £29,184,000 offset by a decrease in non-voted funding of £29,184,000 as a result of using the Departmental Unallocated Provision to support expenditure by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

xiii. An increase in voted funding of £100,000,000 offset by a decrease in non-voted funding of £100,000,000 as a result of accessing funds held in the Departmental Unallocated Provision which were provided in the 2008 Pre Budget Report package.

xiv. An increase in voted funding of £571,000,000 (£456,551,000 Administration and £114,449,000 Other Current) offset by a decrease in non-voted funding of £571,000,000 (Administration) as a result of accessing funds held in the Departmental Unallocated Provision which were announced in the 2009 Budget.

xv. An increase in voted funding of £21,000,000 offset by a decrease in non-voted funding of £21,000,000 as a result of accessing funds held in the Departmental Unallocated Provision which relate to the Welfare Reform White Paper.

xvi. An increase in voted funding of £1,305,000 offset by a decrease in non-voted funding of £1,305,000 relating to decreased utilisation of the Financial Assistance Scheme provision.

xvii. A decrease in non-voted funding of £1,143,000 offset by an increase in voted funding of £1,143,000 relating to decreased expenditure by Working Ventures (UK) Limited.

xviii. An increase in non-voted funding of £3,988,000 offset by a decrease in voted funding of £3,988,000 relating to increased expenditure by the Independent Living Fund.

xix. A decrease in non-voted funding of £30,000 offset by an increase in voted funding of £30,000 relating to decreased expenditure by The Pensions Advisory Service.

xx. An increase in non-voted funding of £51,000 offset by a decrease in voted funding of £51,000 relating to increased expenditure by The Pensions Ombudsman.

xxi. A decrease in non-voted funding of £3,208,000 offset by an increase in voted funding of £3,208,000 relating to decreased expenditure by the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority.

xxii. A decrease in non-voted funding of £356,000 offset by an increase in voted funding of £356,000 relating to decreased expenditure by The Pensions Regulator.

Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit

The net nil movement in the capital element of the Departmental Expenditure Limit arises from:

Movements between Voted and Non-Voted Budgets

xxiii. An increase in non-voted capital funding of £517,000 offset by a decrease in voted capital funding of £517,000 relating to increased expenditure by the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority.

xxiv. A decrease in non-voted capital funding of £96,000 offset by an increase in voted capital funding of £96,000 relating to decreased expenditure by The Pensions Regulator.

Administration Costs

The movement in the Administration Cost limit arises from the changes to the Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit as noted in items i, iii, viii, iv, ix, x, xi and xiv above.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 24 February 2010

TREASURY

Capital Distributions

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): There is, at the moment, considerable uncertainty in relation to the corporation tax treatment of distributions. This uncertainty is causing significant problems to UK business and this statement is intended to establish with certainty a result that will be consistent with established expectations of HMRC practice.

In the Finance Act 2009, the Government introduced a new distribution exemption regime. Since then most income distributions received by UK companies are exempt from corporation tax unless they are linked to tax avoidance. The rules ensure that the UK corporate tax regime remains competitive and represent a significant reduction in the compliance burden faced by UK companies.

As intended, the exemption regime excludes distributions of a capital nature, which are subject to the chargeable gains rules where other exemptions may apply. However, the introduction of the new legislation has prompted HMRC to look more closely at the issue of whether a distribution is of a capital nature.

Before 2005 it was possible to interpret the law as saying that all UK distributions were income in nature unless a specific rule said otherwise—for example, distributions in a winding up. In 2005 a Tax Law Rewrite Act, in clarifying the law, made that view impossible to sustain. Despite this, prevailing practice remained unaltered and so UK distributions have generally been regarded until recently as income in nature and potentially exempt from corporation tax.

In the absence of a rule treating distributions as income, companies in receipt of capital distributions may now face an unexpected tax charge. In some cases, it has become clear that commercial transactions have been put on hold until the tax consequences become clear, with a corresponding effect on the normal business of those companies.

In order to resolve the issue, the Government will introduce legislation in the Finance Bill with a view to restoring previous expectations about the way that distributions are taxed. The changes will apply retrospectively where appropriate and will be subject to an opt out to ensure that UK retrospective application of the new legislation does not increase tax liabilities. These new rules will give UK companies the clarity they need to carry on their normal business.

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 16 February 2010. The following items were discussed:

Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact

ECOFIN issued new recommendations to Malta, Romania and Lithuania, extending the deadlines for correcting their excessive deficits on account of the worse than expected deterioration of their economies. The Council also established that Latvia, Hungary and Poland had taken effective action on their Council recommendations.

The Council also adopted an opinion on Greece's updated stability programme, which sets out plans to reduce its deficit to under 3 per cent. of GDP by 2012; a further decision which sets out budgetary consolidation measures with a timetable; a recommendation with a view to bringing Greece's economic policies in line with the EU's broad economic guidelines; and a decision to make this recommendation public.

The Government believe that Greece must act swiftly to implement these recommendations in line with the given timetable, and welcome the evaluation by the European Commission and ECB as well as the technical assistance being provided by the IMF, which has the experience to play an important supportive role. ECOFIN will return to this issue in March, where it will review progress made, including the further measures the Greek Government have agreed to take.

Single market—Services Directive

ECOFIN discussed and agreed a set of conclusions on the EU single market and the services directive, which called for comprehensive and ambitious implementation of the Directive. The Council also heard a presentation by Mario Monti ahead of his proposals in April for the re-launch of the single market. The Government support the conclusions and the work by Mario Monti, particularly his focus on open markets. It is important ECOFIN takes a view on strategic economic issues for the single market agenda.

Appointment of the Vice-President of the European Central Bank

The Council adopted a recommendation on the nomination of Vitor Constâncioas as Vice-President of the European Central Bank, to succeed Lucas Papademos, whose term of office expires on 31 May. This recommendation will now be submitted to the European Council for approval.

Discharge procedure in respect of the implementation of the budget for 2008

On the basis of a report from the Court of Auditors, the Council approved a recommendation to the European Parliament on the discharge to be given to the Commission for implementation of the EU's general budget for 2008.

Financial Stability Update

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): Following the successful legal and capital restructuring of Northern Rock, which took effect on 1 January 2010, the Government, in conjunction with the Financial Services Authority, have reviewed the guarantee arrangements applying to retail deposits held with Northern Rock.

The restructuring has resulted in the formation of a strong, well-capitalised, highly liquid bank that remains in Government ownership. The bank is authorised and regulated by the FSA and customers' deposits are secure. The Government, in consultation with the FSA, have therefore assessed that it is now appropriate to give notice to remove the guarantee covering retail deposits in Northern Rock plc.

Accordingly, HM Treasury has today given three months' notice that the Government's retail savings guarantee for Northern Rock plc will no longer apply from 5 pm on 24 May 2010. This excludes guarantee arrangements for fixed-term deposits in existing accounts, which will terminate on maturity on the relevant fixed term. For fixed-term products, renewed or extended after today's announcement, the guarantee arrangements in respect of that deposit, will terminate on the date of maturity existing prior to its renewal or extension. The guarantee for wholesale borrowings of Northern Rock plc, to the extent it relates to sums which are attributable to retail deposits made with Northern Rock (Guernsey) Limited, will be also lifted at the same time.

Following lifting of the guarantee, every Northern Rock retail customer will continue to have the first £50,000 of their total deposit protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, whether their deposit is fixed term, non-fixed term or a combination of both. This is the same level of protection that is provided for retail customers of all banks and building societies in the UK. Customers of Northern Rock (Guernsey) will continue to benefit from the Guernsey banking deposit compensation scheme.

The guarantee applying to Northern Rock's retail deposits was put in place as a temporary measure during a period of unprecedented instability in the financial markets. It was never intended to be permanent. Today's announcement affirms the strength of the new Northern Rock plc, and is a positive step in the bank's progression towards independence. Removal of the specific Northern Rock plc retail guarantee more closely aligns Northern Rock's retail depositor protection arrangements with those of all other UK banks, an important step in the normalisation of the UK retail banking market.

Counter-terrorism Act 2008 (Schedule 7)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): As outlined in schedule 7 to the Counter-terrorism Act 2008, the Treasury has undertaken to report to Parliament following the end of each calendar year in which a direction under the powers has been issued. This is the first of these reports, and covers the 2009 calendar year.

The Schedule 7 powers

Schedule 7 provides the Treasury with powers to implement a graduated range of financial restrictions in response to certain risks to the UK's national interests. The risks it addresses are those posed by money laundering, terrorist financing, and the proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) weapons.

Direction issued under the powers in Schedule 7

The Treasury issued a direction under schedule 7 powers on 12 October 2009, designating two Iranian companies: Bank Mellat and the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL). The direction was issued on the basis that activity in Iran that facilitates the development or production of nuclear weapons poses a significant risk to the national interests of the UK. Vessels of IRISL have transported goods for both Iran's ballistic missile and nuclear programmes. Bank Mellat has provided banking services to a UN listed organisation connected to Iran's proliferation sensitive activities, and been involved in transactions related to financing Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

The direction requires all UK financial and credit institutions to cease business relationships and transactions with Bank Mellat and IRISL.

The direction was approved by the House of Commons on 28 October 2009 and by the House of Lords on 2 November 2009.

Bank Mellat challenged the direction in 2009, and the judicial review will be heard in 2010. IRISL also challenged the direction in early 2010.

Licensing

Licensing is the means by which the Treasury can exempt business relationships or transactions between designated entities and UK financial and credit institutions from the requirements of the direction. The licensing regime in place for the direction against Bank Mellat and IRISL allows the Treasury to minimise the impact of the restrictions upon innocent third parties, without compromising the objective of the direction. Licences are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Between 12 October and 31 December 2009, 120 licence applications were received. Of these, 90 had been processed by 31 December 2009, 87 licences had been issued, and three licences rejected.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Special Educational Needs

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): I am publishing today the Government's implementation plan in response to the Lamb inquiry on parental confidence in the special educational needs—SEN—system.

The inquiry, under the chairmanship of Brian Lamb, the chair of the Special Educational Consortium, was tasked with investigating a range of ways in which parental confidence in the SEN assessment process might be improved. The inquiry's final report was published on 16 December 2009.

The inquiry found that, while the SEN framework functions well for the majority of parents, within the same legislative framework there are parents who have been poorly served and have had to battle to get the needs of their child identified and met. This varied picture must be redrawn so that it is common practice to have access to skilled professionals who understand the needs of children and who have high expectations of what children can achieve.

The implementation plan builds on the significant progress that the Government have already made in improving work force skills, and services for children with special educational needs and disabilities—SEND—and their families:

A clear focus on outcomes

The Lamb inquiry report was clear that parental confidence depended on seeing that the needs of their children with SEND were being met by skilled professionals. The Government have already strengthened the status and role of the SEN co-ordinator—SENCO—in schools. All SENCOs are required to be qualified teachers and those new to the role must undertake nationally accredited training and gain a national award. We are investing £10 million per annum to deliver this. We are also investing £12 million over 2008-11 to improve the skills and confidence of trainee and existing teachers, which includes new SEN and disability units in initial teacher training and the inclusion development programme for serving teachers. Our response to Sir Jim Rose's review into teaching children with dyslexia included funding course places for an additional 4,000 specialist dyslexia teachers. The implementation plan builds on this existing investment with up to £4 million for the Training and Development Agency for Schools, including for starting to deliver on the Lamb inquiry recommendation for advanced-level training around the five main SEN areas—learning difficulties; behavioural, emotional and social difficulties; dyslexia; autism spectrum disorders; and speech, language and communication needs.

In addition to improved achievement for children with SEND, parents want to be assured that children are safe from bullying. The Government's pupil and parent guarantees make a commitment to all pupils and their parents, including those with SEND, that their schools will have effective policies in place to prevent and tackle all forms of bullying. We have started work with the Anti-Bullying Alliance to review the most effective approaches to anti-bullying.

Strengthening the voice of parents

The implementation plan explains how we will enhance the service offered to parents through parent partnership services with better trained advisors, and launch a dedicated national helpline in April to provide information and advice to parents of children with SEND.

Establishing a local system in tune with children's needs

The inquiry concluded that the system works best where schools, local authorities and parents operate in a true partnership. We want to build on this good practice through incorporating SEN and disability in the training that leaders of children's services receive. The plan also details the training for local authority SEN officers in how to work well with parents, which will start in March, and guidance and training for those drawing up statements of SEN will be issued this July.

Building accountability around children's progress

The inquiry's final report placed a great deal of emphasis on effective accountability, throughout the system, to ensure parental confidence. We will strengthen training on SEND for school governors, with improved legal resources available for all governors in December and the national training programme for new governors will reflect the conclusions of the inquiry. School improvement partners—SIP—play an increasingly important role in providing high-quality challenge and support to school leaders and, this summer, the national strategies will roll out SEND training to all local authority SIP managers.

My Department has already implemented the inquiry recommendation to route parental complaints to the local government ombudsman. The first-tier tribunal—SEN and Disability—also has already launched enhanced training for tribunal chairs; will issue guidelines on the provision of professional and expert evidence in March and launch revised information for parents, including online materials and a DVD, in May.

A number of recommendations in the inquiry were for Ofsted to take forward and it will be publishing its implementation plan in March. The Children, Schools and Families Bill, currently before Parliament, places an explicit duty on Ofsted to report on how well schools are meeting the needs of children with SEND as part of school inspections.

A responsive national framework

My Department has invited local authorities, working with parents and voluntary organisations, to undertake innovative projects to improve parental confidence. These will be launched in April, one in each region, and will include testing greater independence in assessment.

The inquiry recommended remedying the exclusion of schools from the duty in the Disability Discrimination Act to provide auxiliary aids and services. The Government have already acted on this through an amendment to the Equality Bill, currently before Parliament.

I have asked Brian Lamb to report on progress against the actions in the implementation plan in the summer, rather than in April as originally planned. This will provide him with sufficient time to see the impact of the actions already undertaken and those set out in the plan before reporting.

The implementation plan responds fully to the challenge set in the inquiry report and takes action in those areas that will make a lasting impact on parental confidence; a higher-skilled work force able to respond to children's needs; more accessible information and advice for parents; training for those in key positions throughout the system, and enhanced accountability and redress mechanisms.

I am placing a copy of the implementation plan in the Libraries of both Houses.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

General GLA Grant (2010-11)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Barbara Follett): The General GLA Grant for 2010-11 has been determined by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government at £48,136,000, after consultation with the Mayor of London. The grant is a block grant paid for the purposes of the Greater London Authority and its functional bodies under section 100 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. The grant for 2010-11 is based on the three-year settlement for the grant following the outcome of the 2007 comprehensive spending review.

DEFENCE

War Pensions (Uprating)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): The new rates of war pensions and allowances proposed from April 2010 are set out in the tables below. The annual uprating of war pensions and allowances for 2010 will take place from the week beginning 12 April. To provide additional support to households during the early stages of economic recovery, the 2009 pre-Budget report announced that the Government will bring forward a proportion of the increases expected in April 2011 a year earlier, thereby providing a 1.5 per cent. increase for those benefits normally uprated by RPI.

War Pensions Rates

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates 2009*	*Rates 2010*
War Pensions		
Disablement Pension (100% rates)		
officer (£ per annum)	7,952.00	8,072.00
other ranks	152.40	154.70
Age allowances payable from age 65		
40%-50%	10.25	10.40
over 50% but not over 70%	15.65	15.90
over 70% but not over 90%	22.30	22.65
over 90%	31.30	31.80
Disablement gratuity (one-off payment)		
specified minor injury (min.)	970.00	985.00
specified minor injury (max.)	7,247.00	7,356.00
1-5% gratuity	2,423.00	2,459.00
6-14% gratuity	5,387.00	5,468.00
15%-19% gratuity	9,423.00	9,564.00
Supplementary Allowances		
Unemployability allowance		
Personal	94.20	95.60
adult dependency increase	53.10	53.10
increase for first child	12.35	12.35
increase for subsequent children	14.50	14.50
Invalidity allowance		
higher rate	18.65	18.95
middle rate	12.00	12.20
lower rate	6.00	6.10
Constant attendance allowance		
exceptional rate	115.00	116.80
intermediate rate	86.25	87.60
full-day rate	57.50	58.40
part-day rate	28.75	29.20
Comforts allowance		
higher rate	24.70	25.10
lower rate	12.35	12.55
Mobility supplement	54.85	55.65
Allowance for lowered standard of occupation (maximum)	57.44	58.22
Therapeutic earnings limit (annual rate)	4,784.00	4,836.00
Exceptionally severe disablement allowance	57.50	58.40
Severe disablement occupational allowance	28.75	29.20
Clothing allowance (£ per annum)	196.00	199.00
Education allowance (£ per annum) (max)	120.00	120.00
Widow(er)s' Benefits		
Widow(er)s' - other ranks (basic with children)	115.55	117.30
Widow(er) - Officer (basic with children) (£ per annum)	6,147.00	6,239.00
Childless widow(er)s' u-40 (other ranks)	27.68	28.10
Childless widow(er)s' u-40 (Officer highest rate both wars) (£ per annum)	2,135.00	2,167.00
Supplementary Pension	77.32	78.48
Age allowance		
(a) age 65 to 69	13.20	13.40
(b) age 70 to 79	25.30	25.70
(c) age 80 and over	37.55	38.10
Children's allowance		
Increase for first child	18.15	18.40
Increase for subsequent children	20.30	20.60
Orphan's pension		
Increase for first child	20.70	21.00
Increase for subsequent children	22.70	23.05
Unmarried dependant living as spouse (max)	113.20	114.95
Rent allowance (maximum)	43.60	44.25
Adult orphan's pension (maximum)	88.75	90.10

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): The Justice and Home Affairs Council is due to be held on 25 and 26 February 2010 in Brussels. My noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Lord Bach and I, intend to attend on behalf of the United Kingdom. As the provisional agenda stands, the following items will be discussed:

The Council will begin by agreeing the text on the internal security strategy which was discussed at the January Informal Council in Toledo. The Government support the internal security strategy as currently drafted, in particular the reference to an EU organised crime strategy.

The presidency will then update Ministers on plans to establish the Standing Committee on operational co-operation on internal security—COSI—setting out its legal basis and outlining the next steps for the committee. The Government have supported the creation of COSI and look forward to its first meeting.

The Council will have an orientation debate on a proposal for a European pact against drug trafficking designed to co-ordinate member state activity in this field. The pact focuses on three thematic areas: the "cocaine route" from Latin America via West Africa to Europe; the "heroin route" through Turkey and the Western Balkans; and money-laundering. The Government support this proposal which is in line with UK objectives on drug trafficking.

The presidency will update Ministers on EU-US relations following its high level meeting with US officials in January, which focused on data protection, child protection and terrorism.

There will also be a discussion for Interior Ministers on what the next steps should be for the EU-US agreement on the processing and transfer of financial messaging data for the purposes of the terrorist tracking finance programme—the so-called SWIFT agreement—following the European Parliament's decision to reject the Council decision intended to conclude it.

After lunch, the presidency will update the Mixed Committee, with non-EU Schengen states, on the results of the evaluation of the first milestone test of the second-generation Schengen information system—SIS II—which took place at the end of January. The Government support the need for a thorough evaluation of the first milestone test and will seek to ensure that the remaining milestone tests are conducted in a timely fashion.

The Council will then discuss the official Canadian response to the Commission's October 2009 report which criticised the Canadian Government for its decision to re-introduce visas for Czech nationals. The Government have maintained a neutral position so far and will continue to urge a proportionate solution to this issue, either resolved bilaterally or brokered by the Commission.

The presidency will present a draft instrument establishing a European agency for the management of operational co-operation at the external borders of the member states of the European Union—Frontex. The Government will consider the draft regulation carefully as soon as it is published.

Finally, the Mixed Committee will discuss the ongoing issue of illegal migration on the southern border of the European Union. The Government recognise the significance of these flows and support strong, strategic and evidence-based EU collaboration on this issue through co-operation with countries of origin and transit, and practical action at, and beyond, the EU's borders, including a strong focus on returns.

On the second day of the Council meeting, there will be a state-of-play report on the negotiations that have been taking place about a proposed directive on the European protection order. Ministers will then be given the opportunity to comment. This is a member state initiative, presented by the Spanish presidency, and it is designed to assist victims who have obtained a protection order in one member state who subsequently move to another.

The presidency will then provide Justice Ministers with information about the state of play of the negotiations on the proposed directive on interpretation and translation. This proposal was negotiated as a framework decision under the Swedish presidency and reached political agreement at the October JFIA Council. However, it lapsed when the Lisbon treaty came into force, and so has had to be retabled as a directive under the new treaty. The Government support this proposal.

There will be a presentation and debate on EU accession to the European convention of human rights. The Government fully support EU accession to the European convention on human rights, which will close the gap in judicial protection of fundamental rights in the EU by ensuring that the EU institutions, as well as the member states when implementing EU law, will clearly be subject to the convention.

The Council will be asked to agree a Council resolution proposing the creation of an updated model agreement to help in the establishment of, and participation in, joint investigation teams—JITs. The Government fully support this updated-model agreement which is based on practical experience and good practice.

In addition to the agenda items, Commissioner Viviane Reding will deliver a presentation of her work.

JUSTICE

European Parliament

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): My hon. Friend the Minister for Europe and I wish to announce that following the treaty of Lisbon's entry into force on 1 December 2009, the Government intend that the extra seat in the European Parliament which is assigned to the UK under the treaty will be filled in accordance with the results at the June 2009 European Parliamentary elections. The treaty of Lisbon establishes an overall cap on the size of the European Parliament and an adjustment of the distribution of MEPs between 12 EU member states. The number of UK MEPs increases from 72 to 73.

An agreement of a transitional protocol is required to permit those member states who gain MEPs under the treaty to elect their additional MEPs during the current European Parliamentary term rather than wait until the next round of European Parliamentary elections in 2014. At EU level, unanimous agreement is needed for such a protocol, as it will mean a temporary increase in the number of MEPs allowed by the treaty. At UK level, a Bill will be required after the general election to ratify the treaty change in the UK. Legislation will also be required to provide for the seat to be filled.

Should the seat be awarded to a European Parliamentary electoral region of Great Britain, the results from that region at the 2009 election will be used to determine which party would have been awarded the next seat had an additional seat been available. The system used in Northern Ireland to elect its MEPs—the single transferable vote—is different from that used in Great Britain. If the extra seat is allocated to Northern Ireland therefore, the seat would go to the highest ranking candidate not to have reached the quota at the 2009 election following completion of the count.

Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): In April 2009 I established an independent advisory panel on judicial diversity. I asked the panel to identify the barriers to progress on judicial diversity, and to make recommendations on how to make speedier and sustained progress to a more diverse judiciary. I invited Baroness Julia Neuberger DBE to chair the panel and Lord Justice Goldring, Professor Dame Hazel Genn, Andrew Holroyd CBE, Winston Hunter QC and Dr. Nicola Brewer CMG to serve as members of the panel.

The advisory panel were originally to have presented their final report to me by November 2009. However, at the panel's request, I agreed to a deferral of the publication date to enable the panel to continue engaging with a wide range of contributors and developing their findings. Overall, the panel met, corresponded with, or received evidence from, over 180 individuals and organisations—including members of the judiciary, the Judicial Appointments Commission, members and representatives of the legal professions, and diversity and equality experts—during the course of their investigation.

The advisory panel has now completed its work and produced its final report. Copies of the "Report of Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity 2010" have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

I welcome warmly the findings of the panel's report and its recommendations. Some of these will be for individual organisations to deliver. The majority though will require co-operative working between the Government, the judiciary, the Judicial Appointments Commission and the legal professions. Accordingly, I have written today to invite them to join a new judicial diversity taskforce, which will be responsible for driving forward the comprehensive programme of reform identified by the panel.

I am very grateful to Baroness Neuberger and the members of her advisory panel for the work they have done in producing this report, and the thorough approach that they have taken to identifying and analysing the issues involved.

We know that improving the diversity of the judiciary is a long-term challenge. I hope that this excellent report will spur all those across the system to respond to this challenge with renewed vigour.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bill of Rights

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): The need for an additional human rights framework that reflects the particular circumstances of Northern Ireland was recognised in the Belfast agreement and given shape through the commitment to set up a Bill of Rights forum as part of the St. Andrews agreement. Flowing from these commitments, the Government launched a public consultation on the next steps towards a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland on 30 November 2009.

The Government believe that a Bill of Rights which has the support of the people of Northern Ireland could play an important role in underpinning the peace, prosperity and political progress of Northern Ireland, and we are committed to taking this work forward. The launch of the consultation marked another milestone on that path.

The Government have received a number of requests to extend the consultation deadline by organisations that are keen to participate. As we made clear in the consultation paper, we want a full debate on the issues involved, and it is important to hear the full range of views. With that in mind, I have decided to extend the consultation deadline by four weeks until the end of March to allow those individuals and organisations who wish to contribute to do so.

I encourage everyone in Northern Ireland to read the consultation paper carefully and to participate in the debate.

TRANSPORT

Eurostar

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

The independent review looking into the collapse of Eurostar services before Christmas was published on Friday 12 February. This was a thorough review of the incident and I am pleased to say that all parties have committed to working on implementing the recommendations.

The incident occurred during some of the most prolonged adverse winter weather. Nevertheless, too many passengers were left to endure appalling conditions onboard trains and at stations with inadequate information and assistance. This did not reflect the level of service passengers had experienced over the last 15 years or had come to expect from Eurostar. The company now must win back the trust of the public by taking every step necessary to ensure that services return to their previous high levels of performance and reliability.

I have requested Eurostar and Eurotunnel to provide an update by the end of March on their progress in implementing the recommendations.

Urban Congestion Performance Fund

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): I am today announcing the third tranche of performance-related payments from the Urban Congestion Performance Fund that will see the 10 largest urban areas in England receive a further £19.7 million to study and address the causes of urban congestion.

The Department for Transport has a public service agreement indicator regarding person journey time on main roads into urban areas. The indicator states that by 2010-11 the 10 largest urban areas in England will meet the congestion targets set in their local transport plan relating to movement on main roads into city centres. The indicator will be deemed to have been met if, on target routes in these areas, an average increase in travel of 4.4 per cent. is accommodated with an average increase of 3.6 per cent. in person journey time per mile.

On 4 February the Department published statistics for 2008-09 for each urban area to replace the provisional estimates that were published in November 2009. These data showed that the average person journey time across all the target routes has improved by 5.5 per cent. between the baseline (which uses a mix of 2004-05 and 2005-06 data) and 2008-09. At the same time the average level of travel fell by 0.8 per cent. across all the target routes.

Based on this performance, the £19.7 million payment will now be shared between the participating areas as below:

Urban Area	*Tranche 3 Payments*
London	£6,000,000
Greater Manchester	£2,508,605
West Midlands	£2,339,880
West Yorkshire	£2,040,536
South Yorkshire	£1,604,010
Tyne & Wear	£1,344,263
Merseyside	£1,369,138
West of England	£825,968
Nottingham	£831,412
Leicester	£793,903
Total	£19,657,715

In relation to the 2007-08 performance fund payments announced on 23 February 2009, an error was identified in the way that "statistical confidence" is determined. This meant that when London was awarded full funding under tranche 2 (£3.9 million) they should have only been awarded 90 per cent. (£3.51 million). After taking in to consideration the fact that the error was due to the Department and not Transport for London, that London had still only marginally missed the full payment threshold and as the priority of the fund is to identify and tackle the causes of congestion, it has been decided to retain London's original performance fund allocation of £3.9 million under tranche 2. No other payments to the other urban areas were affected.

The performance fund is worth a total of £60 million over four years, and today's announcement will have seen a total of £42.6 million paid to the 10 areas. A further £15 million is available in the next financial year, and will also be awarded on a performance basis.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 25 February 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

EU Competitiveness Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Ian Lucas): The EU Competitiveness Council will take place in Brussels on 1 and 2 March and this statement covers the business to be taken at the Council. I shall represent the UK on internal market and industry issues on 1 March and Andy Lebrecht, the UK's Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU, will represent the UK on research issues on 2 March.

The main industry and internal market items on the agenda are: Council conclusions on future EU industrial policy; discussion of the Commission's Europe 2020 strategy for growth and jobs; a Council resolution on EU intellectual property rights policy; and a ministerial lunchtime discussion with Mario Monti to discuss his preliminary report on the re-launch of the EU single market.

The main research items on the agenda are: a joint Baltic sea research and development programme; a regulation on the European earth observation programme (GMES) and its initial operations 2011-13; a Council resolution on the governance of the European research area, including a new mandate for the scientific and technical research committee (CREST); Council conclusions on the European Research Council and on researcher mobility and careers issues; and discussion of the Commission's Europe 2020 strategy for growth and jobs.

The any other business items are set out below:

AOB items

a. Information from the Commission on the results of the Copenhagen conference. Implications for European industry;

b. Information from the presidency on the results of the informal Competitiveness Council on 8 and 9 February (San Sebastián);

c. Information from the presidency and the Commission on standardisation activities, within and outside the EU, relating to electric vehicles;

d. Possible information from the Commission on internal market scoreboard no.20;

e. Presentation by the Commission on functioning of the internal market: implementation of the internal market information system;

f. Information from the Commission—services directive—state of play of transposition information from the Commission—ITER;

g. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: "Mobilising private and public investment for recovery and long term structural change; developing Public Private Partnerships"—Information from the Commission: 16586/09 COMPET 496 ECOFIN 836 IND 173 MI 447 RECH 434 TRANS 469 ENER 411 ENV 836

h. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: "A public-private partnership on the Future Internet"—Information from the Commission: 15279/09 TELECOM 227 RECH 372 IND 144 ENER 359 ENV 747 SAN 291 TRANS 432

i. Communication from the Commission—European Institute of Innovation and Technology: Update on progress

j. Information from the presidency—high-level event on information and communication technologies for energy efficiency (ICT4EE) towards a sustainable society (Brussels 23 and 24 February 2010).

The Government's main aims will be:

To outline UK priorities for a new EU industrial policy, particularly the importance of open and competitive markets.

To support the Council resolution on enhancing the enforcement of intellectual property rights in the EU internal market.

In discussions on the Europe 2020 strategy for growth and jobs, to emphasise the UK priorities set out in the Prime Minister's EU compact for jobs and growth.

To agree a decision on the participation by the Community in a joint Baltic sea research and development programme being undertaken by several member states and a regulation on the European earth observation programme (GMES) and its initial operations 2011-13.

To adopt a Council resolution on the governance of the European Research Area, including a new mandate for the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) which will strengthen that body's strategic role in the definition of European research policy.

To adopt Council conclusions in response to the recent evaluation of the mechanisms and structures of the European Research Council and Council conclusions on researcher mobility and careers issues.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

EU Education Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Mr. Iain Wright): My right hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Baroness Morgan of Drefelin) has made the following written ministerial statement:

I represented the UK at the Education Council, on behalf of DCSF and BIS.

Summary

The Council had only two substantive agenda items—adopting the joint progress report on the "Education and Training" work programme, and a debate on the role of education in the upcoming EU2020 strategy. Also, Androulla Vassiliou, the new Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, presented her priorities for forthcoming work in the area of education.

The presidency introduced the joint report on the implementation of the "Education and Training 2010" work programme. While advancements have been made across the key competencies and agreed benchmarks, low literacy levels and drop-out rates remain a concern. The Council adopted the report without further comments.

Ministers discussed the role of education and training for the Europe of 2020, based on a presidency discussion paper which argued that education must play a central role in ensuring that Europe is a leading, competitive, knowledge based economy. All countries supported the key messages in the text, notably the need to upgrade skills, promote mobility, foster innovation at all levels of education, and increase the links between the education system and employers.

A number of member states underlined the importance of focusing on current and future skills needs. I also spoke on the importance of an outcome-based approach to the EU's open method of co-ordination and noted the need for an individualised approach to learning.

The Commissioner concluded by calling for increased, targeted investment in education, a more innovative higher education area, and greater flexibility between the world of education, employment and wider society. She also revealed President Barroso's plans for EU2020, including his proposal that the benchmark on 40 per cent. tertiary level education attainment should be one of five priority benchmarks for the upcoming EU2020 strategy.

The Council was followed by a lunch debate on social inclusion and social responsibility through education and training. This focused on the balance between promoting equity and excellence, and will lead to Council conclusions to be agreed by Ministers later this year.

HEALTH

Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): I am publishing the independent Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board's (NAPDB) end of year report on progress by health and social care organisations in implementing the nutrition action plan to improve the nutritional care of older people in hospital and those living in care homes. I have placed copies of the report and our response to the NAPDB's findings in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office. I am grateful to the Chair and members of the NAPDB for their work in overseeing the first year implementation of the nutrition action plan.

In completing their task, I congratulate the board on their work to raise awareness of the links between nutrition and good health, and the risks to vulnerable groups within the population, such as older people living alone. The NAPDB report adds to the evidence base to help us address the complex factors that determine malnutrition—for example, loss of appetite associated with age and/or illness, including absorption problems or the need for assistance in eating and drinking. Many of the report's conclusions and recommendations align with our policy on nutrition and programmes underway to improve health and social care services.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Identity Commissioner

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): We successfully launched the National Identity Service in Manchester on 30 November. So far over 5,000 people have been issued with identity cards and the number is continually growing. These people are already starting to see the advantages of having an identity card — using it to prove and protect their identity and for travel to Europe.

The Identity Commissioner provides independent oversight of the National Identity Service and has already begun to look closely at the way the service is delivered. I am pleased to lay before Parliament the first annual report of the Identity Commissioner. His early impression, that the Identity and Passport Service are "doing a pretty good job", is welcome. But the Identity Commissioner is not complacent; neither am I. I endorse his priorities for scrutiny in the coming year: data-sharing; exploiting the benefit of identity cards; and the security and integrity of the technology of the National Identity Service. I look forward to seeing the result of his work in the coming months.

Since the beginning of the year, roll out of identity cards has continued to grow. On 4 January we extended eligibility to people across the North-West and since 8 February, young people aged 16 to 24 living in London have also been able to apply for an identity card. Furthermore, over 21,000 people throughout the UK have registered an interest in applying for an identity card and I have made a commitment that anyone who registers their interest through the Directgov website before 30 June will be able to apply for an identity card. Identity cards are a convenient and universal proof of age as well as a credit-card sized alternative to the passport when travelling in Europe.

Copies of the Identity Commissioner's report will be available in the Vote Office.

JUSTICE

Parole Board Chair

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I have reappointed Sir David Latham as chairman of the Parole Board from 25 February 2010 for a period of 12 months or until the future status of the Parole Board has been resolved following the consultation "The Future of the Parole Board".

Office for Judicial Complaints

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): With the concurrence of the Lord Chief Justice, I have published today the annual report of the Office for Judicial Complaints (OJC). The OJC provides support to the Lord Chief Justice and myself in our joint responsibility for the system of judicial complaints and discipline.

I welcome the publication of this report, the third produced by the OJC, which details the work undertaken by the OJC in the past year, and the complaints with which it has dealt.

The OJC's 2006-2007 report marked the first occasion on which comprehensive details of complaints received about judicial office holders had been made available to the public. I am pleased to note that the OJC continues to build on this foundation and believe that this report highlights the continued progress made by the OJC in delivering a high quality, effective and transparent service to all its complainants.

The Lord Chief Justice and I are keen to ensure that the disciplinary process for judicial office holders is both transparent and accountable. As we announced in April 2009, we have agreed that, where a judicial office holder has been removed from office following disciplinary procedures, there should now be a presumption that both the identity of that judicial office holder, and the reason for their removal, should be made public. While mindful of this presumption, we will none the less continue to make decisions about disclosure on a case-by-case basis.

Where a judicial office holder has been subject to a lesser sanction than removal, this presumption does not apply, however, we will continue to give consideration to the disclosure of relevant information in cases that have attracted a high degree of interest from the public and media.

Copies of the report are available in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. Copies of the report are also available on the internet at: http://www.judicialcomplaints.gov.uk/publications/publications.htm.

Pleural Plaques

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): This ministerial statement sets out the Government's decision on the question of compensation for pleural plaques, following their consultation on the issue. A full summary of the submissions we received during that consultation will be published shortly.

On 17 October 2007 the Law Lords upheld a Court of Appeal decision that the existence of pleural plaques—small localised areas of fibrosis caused by exposure to asbestos fibres, found within the pleura of the lung—does not constitute actionable or compensatable damage. Prior to that, people had been able to bring claims for compensation for pleural plaques since the 1980s

In the light of representations made by individuals and organisations who strongly disagreed with the Law Lords' decision, and in recognition of the concerns that existed, the Government published a consultation paper on the issue which sought views on a number of options in response to the ruling, including whether to overturn the House of Lords' judgment and legislate so that pleural plaques would again be compensatable under civil law.

In total the Government received 224 responses to its consultation paper. In addition, reports were received from the chief medical officer (CMO) for England and Wales and the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council (IIAC) reviewing the medical evidence on pleural plaques. Very helpful further discussions have also taken place with key medical experts in relation to the medical evidence.

This has confirmed that the presence of pleural plaques is an indicator that a person has been exposed to asbestos. Given that exposure to asbestos increases the risk of developing a serious illness, a diagnosis of pleural plaques can give rise to an understandable sense of anxiety and unease. However, while the exposure to asbestos has resulted in an anatomical change, in the great majority of cases pleural plaques do not in themselves produce any significant physiological change or loss of lung function, and only very rarely give rise to physical symptoms. In such rare cases it is still possible for individuals to bring a civil claim for damages.

There is no available medical evidence to show that pleural plaques become malignant or lead to mesothelioma or other asbestos-related diseases. Current evidence indicates that it is a person's exposure to asbestos that produces any increased risk of developing a serious asbestos-related disease rather than the pleural plaques themselves.

The chief medical officer has invited the British Lung Foundation and the British Thoracic Society to develop information materials for health care professionals, and an information leaflet for people diagnosed with pleural plaques, to ensure that consistent and accurate information is provided about the condition to help allay concerns as far as possible.

On the basis of medical evidence received during the course of this review, including authoritative reports from the CMO and the IIAC, we are unable to conclude that the Law Lords' decision should be overturned at this time or that an open-ended no-fault compensation scheme should be set up. While the current medical evidence is clear that pleural plaques are a marker of exposure to asbestos, and that exposure to asbestos significantly increases the risk of asbestos-related disease, any increased risk of a person with pleural plaques developing an asbestos-related disease arises because of that person's exposure to asbestos rather than because of the plaques themselves. However, if new medical or other significant evidence were to emerge, the Government would obviously reassess the situation.

While we cannot, for the reasons outlined above, restore the previous position, we do acknowledge the unique position of those individuals who had already begun, but not resolved, a legal claim for compensation for pleural plaques at the time of the Law Lords' ruling in October 2007. Such people would have had an understandable expectation that their claim would result in compensation and many had made plans accordingly.

The Government have decided to make payments of £5,000 to individuals in this limited category under an extra-statutory scheme. The payment broadly reflects the level of compensation likely to have been received if pleural plaques had continued to be compensatable. Detailed arrangements relating to the operation of this extra-statutory scheme will be announced shortly. The scheme will apply to England and Wales, where the Ministry of Justice has responsibility for civil law. An information telephone line will be available by the end of the week and the number will be published at: www.justice.gov.uk/about/pleural-plaques.htm. The Government regard this as a unique situation and as not setting any precedent for any other circumstances where litigants may be disappointed.

A significant consequence of the House of Lords' decision has been that people diagnosed with plaques can no longer bring proceedings to establish liability for negligent exposure to asbestos. This was useful for some individuals later diagnosed with mesothelioma, as prior establishment of liability expedited their new compensation claim. This is of particular importance where conditions like mesothelioma are concerned, as patients frequently die very soon after diagnosis, leaving little time to trace records and obtain compensation. The Government believe it is imperative that steps are taken to improve the speed of payment for compensation claims for mesothelioma and other serious asbestos-related diseases.

We will therefore establish a working group composed of claimant solicitors, trade unions, insurers, the judiciary, and civil servants to examine litigation practices and procedures for compensation claims relating to mesothelioma, and identify options for streamlining them in order to reduce the time taken to conclude cases. In particular the working group will consider:

the operation of the practice direction for court proceedings introduced in April 2008 to ensure that it is working effectively;

possible solutions to difficulties arising from delays in obtaining medical reports because of the shortage of medical experts in this area;

why more claims do not settle, and whether any provisions in relation to pre-action behaviour would be helpful in reducing the time taken to establish liability without the need for court proceedings.

We also intend to consider changes to the substantive law to:

resolve difficulties experienced by mesothelioma sufferers as a result of differences in the value of claims which are settled before or after the death of the person concerned and to clarify the limitation period for bringing a claim;

clarify that the limitation period for bringing a claim runs from the date that the claimant becomes aware that he or she has mesothelioma rather than from the date they became aware of the original exposure to asbestos.

In addition, in November 2009 we introduced the Third Parties (Rights against Insurers) Bill into Parliament under a new procedure for Law Commission Bills. The Bill will enable claims against insolvent employers to be brought direct against the employer's insurer. This will simplify court procedures and remove the need for dissolved companies to be restored to the register of companies. The Bill is expected to become law in this Parliament.

Further to these initiatives we are also taking action to deal with the problem of people who develop a serious asbestos-related disease but are unable to obtain full compensation because they cannot trace the employer's insurer.

This problem has been recognised for some time, and since 1999 the Association of British Insurers (ABI) and the Lloyds Market Association have committed to a voluntary code of practice for tracing EL insurance policies. However, while the tracing service has led to some improvements, there are still many individuals who are left without help—3,210 of them in 2008.

That situation is clearly unsatisfactory and the Government are therefore consulting on two proposals to improve matters.

We believe that an essential first step is the creation of a UK-wide Employers' Liability Tracing Office (ELTO) to manage an electronic database of EL policies and to operate the existing tracing service. The Association of British Insurers (ABI) has agreed to drive forward this work to help claimants and their representatives, informed by the outcome of the consultation. The new office will initially be launched on a voluntary basis but we would ultimately like it to be a requirement on all insurers to publish relevant policy details on the ELTO.

The ELTO will initially be populated with existing trace data but new and renewed policies will be included shortly afterwards. One of the issues explored in the consultation is the extent to which historic insurance records can be added to the database.

We have every expectation that the ELTO will deliver significant results, creating a database of records that will help many thousands of people trace policies and receive compensation in the future.

However, even with an ELTO there will be some people, especially those who suffer from long-tail diseases like mesothelioma, who are unable to trace their insurance records and thus are denied full compensation. The Government therefore propose to establish an Employers' Liability Insurance Bureau (ELIB) providing a compensation fund of last resort for individuals across the UK who are unable to trace EL insurance records.

The consultation, published on 10 February, examines what an ELIB should cover, the impact of an ELIB on insurers and employers, how much should be paid by way of compensation, limitations on claiming from the ELIB, and what more can be done to ensure that employers who are legally obliged to obtain ELCI do so. The Government will consider fully the responses to the consultation before determining next steps towards the introduction of an ELIB.

A mandatory ELTO and an ELIB should, in time, provide a comprehensive framework for supporting people who develop a serious asbestos-related disease. However, in recognition of the need for action now, the Government are taking a series of steps to increase the upfront payments that are currently made to mesothelioma sufferers and their dependants.

The Government will increase payments made under the Pneumoconiosis etc. (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979 by 1.5 per cent., even though the retail prices index showed negative growth. In addition, we will increase payments made due to mesothelioma under the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 so that they equal payments made under the Pneumoconiosis etc. (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979.

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions is also amending regulations to increase payments to all dependants under the 1979 Act and the 2008 Act by up to £5,000, so that their awards are closer to those paid to sufferers. All of these increases will come into effect on 1 April 2010.

The fact that the UK has one of the highest rates of death from mesothelioma in the world is a legacy of our industrial heritage and the part that asbestos played in it. Just as the UK was a global leader in the asbestos industry, we must now become a global leader in research into asbestos-related disease.

We have received strong representations from clinicians, asbestos support groups and trade unions—as well as from Members on all sides of this House—for the creation of a national centre for asbestos-related disease, a collaborative network of funded researchers whose core purpose would be to advance medical research into the prevention, cure and alleviation of asbestos-related disease—primarily mesothelioma.

There is now widespread recognition, including within the medical research community, that while there has been considerable investment into cancer research generally, not enough has been focused on the study of cancers of the lung, including mesothelioma. Yet mesothelioma is now the 12th most common cancer killer in men and the cancer of most rapidly increasing incidence in women.

We are determined to expand research in this area. The Secretary of State for Health has therefore asked Department of Health officials to consider and advise on how best to create a world-leading network of medical research practitioners for asbestos related disease. The Department will involve my hon. Friend the Member for Barnsley, West and Penistone (Mr. Clapham), Dr. John Edwards and others with a special interest this review.

Based on their recommendations and on advice from National Cancer Research Institute about research priorities, we will set out how Government will support an increase in research investment in this area. In addition, we are very pleased to announce that the insurance industry will be contributing £3 million towards research into asbestos-related disease.

The Government believe that these measures will be of real and significant benefit to people diagnosed with mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Final Policy on Prosecuting Cases of Encouraging and Assisting Suicide

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

In September last year, and following the House of Lords judgment in Purdy *v.* DPP, the Director of Public Prosecutions issued his interim policy setting out the particular public interest factors he would take account of when deciding whether to give consent to the prosecution of a person for the offence of aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring (assisting) another to commit or attempt to commit suicide. At the same time he announced the start of a consultation process on the issue.

Having considered over 4,500 responses to that consultation process the Director has issued today his final policy, together with the summary of the responses. Copies of each have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

It should be emphasised that the policy does not change the law but responds to the House of Lords judgment in Purdy *v.* DPP in which the House of Lords considered that in the special case of assisted suicide the Director should issue such a policy. This policy should be read in conjunction with the code for Crown prosecutors which will continue to apply to all cases.

Additionally, following a similar public consultation process, the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland has issued today guidelines in respect of cases arising in Northern Ireland. Copies of these guidelines have also been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

Bus, Coach and Tram Passenger Champion

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): The Local Transport Act 2008 enables the Secretary of State to confer additional functions, through secondary legislation, on the Rail Passengers' Council, the statutory rail passenger watchdog known as Passenger Focus, in relation to buses, coaches and trams.

The Government are announcing that the Passengers' Council (Non-Railways Functions) Order 2010 comes into force today. The order extends the council's remit so as to give bus, coach and tram passengers in England outside London statutory representation for the first time. It also changes the statutory name of the Rail Passengers' Council to the Passengers' Council, although it will continue to be known as Passenger Focus.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Exportability of Disability Benefits

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw): In October 2007 the European Court of Justice decided that disability living allowance (care component), attendance allowance and carer's allowance ("disability benefits") should be classified as sickness benefits under Regulation EC 1408/71. Consequently, the benefits are exportable in certain circumstances. Before this judgment disability benefits were not exportable and as a result people who had been receiving these benefits lost entitlement when they moved abroad.

The Government accepted that the disability benefits referred to above are exportable to customers living in the European economic area (EEA) and Switzerland provided certain conditions are met. This includes a requirement that customers making a new claim have been in the UK for 26 out of the past 52 weeks.

After careful consideration we have decided, to take a different approach on cases where people lost entitlement to a disability benefit when they moved to another EEA state or Switzerland before 18 October 2007 (the date of the judgment in case C-299/05, *Commission v. Parliament*) but no earlier than 8 March 2001 (the date of the judgment in case C-215/99, *Jauch v. Pensionsversicherungsanstalt der Arbeiter*).

We accept that these people will have been in the UK for 26 out of the previous 52 weeks when they left the UK. We will therefore no longer require that they should satisfy this condition at the date they seek reinstatement, providing they continued to meet the other relevant domestic and EU law eligibility requirements throughout the period their claim was disallowed. Payment will be considered from 18 October 2007.

Once full details are available, the Pension, Disability and Carers Service will start to contact those people who have already applied for reinstatement to check if they are able to have their benefit reinstated.

The Department will take action to publicise this different approach and has placed information on the Government's official website, Directgov: http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Nl1/Newsroom/DG_185646. The disability benefits pages on the site will be updated as more information becomes available.

Lump Sum Mesothelioma Sufferers

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Yvette Cooper): I am pleased to inform the House that, from April 2010, a series of increases will be made to lump sum payments paid to individuals suffering from mesothelioma and certain other qualifying diseases under the Pneumoconiosis etc. (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979 and the 2008 mesothelioma scheme. Together, these schemes mean that all people suffering from mesothelioma can receive lump sum awards from the Government quickly after diagnosis, in addition to weekly state benefits.

There is no requirement on Government to uprate payments under the schemes, but we have previously committed to increasing payments in line with those to state benefits. We have laid regulations to increase payments under the 1979 Act by 1.5 per cent. from 1 April this year, despite the negative growth in the retail price index. This will increase the value of such payouts to these very vulnerable people.

I can announce also that we are increasing the level of payments made through the 2008 mesothelioma scheme to bring them up to those under the 1979 Act.

The 2008 scheme was introduced to provide up-front financial support to those people who previously were not eligible for help from the Government's other compensation schemes. The scheme is funded by compensation recovery—compensation recovered from individuals who are successful in a civil damages claim but who have already received a payment under the 1979 Act or 2008 scheme. When we started the scheme in 2008 we set awards at a level consistent with the amount of recoveries we expected to make; a lower rate than the 1979 Act. We made it clear, however, that we intended to bring 2008 scheme payments to the same level as those under the 1979 Act at the earliest opportunity. Our expectation was that we would be able to do this in the scheme's third year of operation.

I am pleased to inform the House that we are able to honour our promise sooner than expected and will be increasing payments to 1979 Act levels from April 2010, only 18 months after the 2008 scheme started. This means that those receiving a lump sum payment for mesothelioma will receive the same amount whether they were exposed to asbestos at work or exposed elsewhere, such as through washing their partner's clothes or by living close to an asbestos factory.

Finally, I am announcing an increase in the level of payments made to most dependants under both the 1979 Act and the 2008 scheme.

We recognise that the terrible effects of mesothelioma are not limited to the sufferer and that their families also have to cope with the effect of the disease on their loved one, witnessing their pain, suffering and ultimately their death. While we do acknowledge this by making payments to the family of someone who dies of mesothelioma and other dust-related diseases—such as pneumoconiosis, byssinosis and silicosis—these payments have been paid at a much lower rate than those to sufferers during life. We listened to the arguments put forward by stakeholders and hon. Members, who feel that this situation is unfair to dependants and can put added stress on sufferers and families at already extremely difficult times. We made a commitment to look at reducing the difference in payment to sufferers and dependants as funds became available.

We are now able to do this, and from April the majority of dependants receiving awards under the 1979 Act and 2008 scheme will receive a £5,000 increase. Those who already receive close to the amount paid to the sufferer will receive a proportionate amount, bringing their award up to the level of that paid to the sufferer in life.

These changes all take effect from April 2010.

Right to Control (Trailblazer Sites)

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Yvette Cooper): The Right to Control aims to provide disabled adults with more choice and control over the support they need to live their lives, and how they receive that support. It allows them to select whether they receive funding direct, support from a service provider, or a mixture of both.

To understand how the Right to Control can be best implemented we plan to test this approach within a small number of trailblazer sites. On 8 December 2009, we published a prospectus inviting interested authorities to be at the forefront of this innovative approach and apply to become a trailblazer site.

We have selected eight sites that have provided us with quality proposals. These sites will also provide a good geographical balance between rural and urban communities as well as a mixture of different types of authorities.

The trailblazing authorities are:

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council and Sheffield City Council (Joint)

Essex County Council

Greater Manchester—incorporating Manchester City Council, Oldham Council, Bury Council, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council and Trafford Council

Leicester City Council

London Borough of Barnet

London Borough of Newham

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, and

Surrey County Council (two districts—Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council)

To ensure that the greater independence requested by disabled people is being met Jobcentre Plus will also be working closely with each of these authorities to provide a more streamlined service, and support for disabled people to achieve the outcomes that suit them best.

These eight sites will commence delivery of the Right to Control by the end of 2010, and will continue for a period of two years. Their findings will help inform the decision as to whether the Right to Control can be rolled out further.

Today we are also publishing our consultation document on our statutory regulations that will support the delivery of the Right to Control by the trailblazers. This can be viewed and downloaded from the Office for Disability Issues website at: www.odi.gov.uk/right-to-control. Copies of the document will be placed in the House Library.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 26 February 2010

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jim Fitzpatrick): I have today deposited copies of the report giving the proportion of UK produce supplied to Government Departments and the armed forces, as well as the proportions supplied to prisons and hospitals under contracts negotiated by HM Prison Service and NHS supply chain. A copy of the report is available on the PSFPI web site at: http://defraweb/foodfarm/policy/publicsectorfood/awareness.htm

HEALTH

Out-of-Hours GP Services (Ministerial Correction)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Mike O'Brien): In answer to a question following my statement to the House on 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 764, I stated as understood at that time that—

> "On 21 April, Dr. Ubani was convicted, received a four-month suspended sentence and made a payment, although it is disputed whether it was a cost or a fine".

It has come to light that proceedings in Germany against Dr. Ubani were finalised on 15 April 2009 where he received a suspended sentence of nine months and made a payment of €5,000. The CPS understands the sum was a fine, rather than costs.

I hope this clarifies the situation.

Access to the NHS (Foreign Nationals)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Mike O'Brien): On 20 July 2009, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health, my hon. Friend the Member for Brentford and Isleworth (Ann Keen) announced the outcome of the joint Department of Health and UK Border Agency review of the rules on overseas visitors' access to the national health service in England, and the Government's intention to consult publicly on the change proposals. Today, on her behalf, I am fulfilling that commitment by launching the consultation.

The proposals in the consultation strike a balance between public health needs, managing migration and upholding humanitarian principles, ensuring that we continue to deliver high quality care to all those with a legal right to it while protecting our NHS from those who would take advantage of it.

The consultation includes proposals to increase the time that UK residents can regularly stay outside the UK before losing automatic entitlement to free NHS hospital care, and to protect unaccompanied children who arrive in the UK. We propose to exempt from charges failed asylum seekers who are co-operating with, and are supported by, the UK Border Agency prior to returning to their own country, but to charge all other failed asylum seekers.

In my hon. Friend's earlier statement, *Official Report*, column 97WS, she said that the Government were attracted to the principle that some visitors should be required to pay for their NHS treatment through personal health insurance, as is already the case in some other countries. Although developing a scheme that is fair and effective will be challenging, we are determined to take this forward. We will now seek views on the merits and feasibility of key principles and mechanisms for making this work, which have the potential both to increase the income that the NHS receives from overseas visitors, and to act as a deterrent to those seeking to abuse the NHS.

We have also taken the opportunity to consolidate the current regulations that underpin the policy on the charging of visitors, and to improve the supporting guidance that we provide for the NHS. Neither of these updates reflects any change in entitlements or operating practices, but they are provided in draft form for people to examine and comment on prior to them being launched.

The Minister of State for Borders and Immigration is today also launching a consultation on the proposal to refuse entry to the UK to those who have significant outstanding debts for NHS treatment. This will help the NHS to recover debts and discourage further those visitors who travel to the UK to seek treatment without paying.

The period for responding to the consultation will run until 30 June 2010. I have placed the consultation document in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

NHS Debtors (Immigration Rules)

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): On 20 July 2009, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health, my hon. Friend the Member for Brentford and Isleworth (Ann Keen) announced the outcome of the joint Department of Health and UK Border Agency review of the rules on migrants' access to the national health service in England. As part of a balanced package of measures to rationalise and reform the present NHS charging arrangements, my hon. Friend signalled our intention to consult publicly on significant proposals for change emerging from the review, including action to protect the NHS from misuse by a minority of foreign nationals who are charged for using our public health services but default on their debts. Proposals to tackle the problem of "health tourism" sit alongside a broader range of measures to protect the interests of vulnerable individuals.

In taking forward this commitment, I have today published a public consultation on a proposal to change the immigration rules to provide for the first time that debt to the NHS above a prescribed amount will constitute grounds for refusal of permission to enter and stay in the United Kingdom for those subject to immigration control. The Government believe that those who take advantage of our hospitality should respect that hospitality or face consequences. The consultation sets out how the UK Border Agency would work in partnership with NHS to administer these new arrangements. The new immigration rule would supplement existing work by UK Border Agency officers at ports of entry to identify and remove visitors seeking to conceal an intention to enter the UK for the purpose of accessing NHS services. The period for responding to the consultation will run until 28 May 2010, and I have placed copies of the consultation documentation, together with regulatory and equality impact assessments, in the Vote Office and in the Library of the House.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EU Trade Ministers Informal Meeting

The Minister of State, Department for International Development (Mr. Gareth Thomas): I represented the United Kingdom at the Spanish presidency's Trade Ministers informal dinner on 21 February. I welcomed the presidency's constructive highlighting of the importance of external trade for the economic strength of member states, and the importance of open and fair markets globally as the world emerges from the current economic crisis. I pointed to the importance of trade and exports to help tackle unemployment, currently at 10 per cent. across the EU-27 member states. The EU needed an open, fair trading system for our global competitiveness. I was pleased that my comments were reflected well in the new Commissioner, Karel de Gucht's response, and I look forward to the UK working closely with the new Commission to deliver this critically important agenda.

I emphasised the importance of reaching a balanced conclusion to the Doha development round. Only through the multilateral trade structures can we address the unfair and unbalanced array of trade barriers which prevent growth, particularly in developing countries. But I also said that the United Kingdom welcomed EU progress on reaching free trade agreements, which were a stepping stone to a multilateral agreement. I welcomed the initialling of the agreement with Korea—with potential value of €19 billion for the EU—and stressed the importance to the UK and EU of free trade agreements with India and Singapore. On a free trade agreement with Andean countries currently under negotiation I was clear that we would need reassurances of adequate and appropriate human rights provisions.

I warmly welcomed a renewed focus on economic co-operation with our major trading partners, and the contribution this could make to EU competitiveness. We needed to prioritise relations with the US, Japan and China. We should focus on regulatory co-operation, on international standards, and an intellectual property framework that reflected emerging new technologies and supported greener economic growth.

I pointed to the importance of addressing trade barriers at the EU's external borders. DG Trade in the Commission needed to work with other directorates general, in particular tax and customs, health and consumers, and energy and transport, on a risk-based approach to trade regulation and improve or remove disproportionately bureaucratic measures.

I strongly argued that we had to modernise our trade defence rules and ensure a transparent, economic and business-focused system that recognised the realities of global supply chains.

International trade and investment have the potential to bring benefits not only to our own economies, but also to developing countries. I therefore applauded the overall EU member state provision of more than 40 per cent. of the global Aid for Trade. But I argued that the Commission needed more effective and more flexible systems for spending it. On economic partnership agreements (EPAs) with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries I encouraged the Commission to press forward with negotiating full regional agreements that were truly development-friendly. We also needed mechanisms to implement and monitor existing EPAs. I pressed the Commission to make progress on the review of the general system of preferences (GSP). We needed increased transparency around the effective implementation of GSP+. I drew all member states' attention to the plight of Pakistan. I argued that there was an overwhelming moral and political case to support the Pakistan economy at this time, and that an adjustment of rules within GSP+ could bring trade benefits that would have wider, mutually beneficial social and political impact. Finally I emphasised the importance of decent work. I argued that working more closely with the ILO we could make important progress to ensure that standards were raised and secured without creating artificial barriers to trade.

JUSTICE

Thirty-year Rule Review

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): Yesterday I laid before each House a copy of the Government's response to the 30-year rule review (Cm. 7822). Copies of this document are available in the Libraries of both Houses and also in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

This publication will further the Government's plans to increase the accessibility of public information to improve the culture of openness and transparency in public life.

The right to access information has become a cornerstone of our democracy. On 25 October 2007, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, announced an independent review of the 30-year rule. The review, chaired by Paul Dacre, published its findings in January 2009. The Government have carefully considered those findings.

As my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, announced on 10 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 797, the Government plan to reduce the rule to 20 years via amendments to the Public Records Act 1958 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Government believe that a 20-year rule offers the best balance between openness, affordability and the protection of the public interest in good government.

The new information access arrangements set out in the Government's response to the 30-year rule review will provide earlier access to a wide range of public documents, while also ensuring that we are able to protect the most sensitive information and the constitutional relationships that underpin our system of government.

In order to bring forward these important proposals the Government yesterday tabled amendments to the Constitutional Renewal and Governance Bill. Those amendments also provide protection to royal records.

I would like to express my gratitude to Paul Dacre, and his two colleagues on the review Sir Joseph Pilling and Professor Sir David Cannadine for all their work on the review.

Prisoner Escapes (Ministerial Correction)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Maria Eagle): An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. and learned Member for Beaconsfield (Mr. Grieve), 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 216-17W. The full answer should have been as follows:

The table below shows information relating to three prisoners still unlawfully at large for murder who have absconded from open prisons in England and Wales since April 2004.

Prisoners still unlawfully at large since April 2004 serving an index offence of murder

	Prisoner 1	*Prisoner 2*	*Prisoner 3*
Date of offence	*March 1984*	*25/04/1982*	*27/09/1989*
Date convicted to life imprisonment	12/12/1984	04/10/1982	31/10/1989
Length of sentence	Life	Life	Life
Date of re-categorisation to category D	01/09/2004	08/04/2005	01/02/2009
Date of transfer to open conditions	01/09/2004	26/10/2005	21/01/2009
Date of abscond	17/05/2005 HMP Sudbury	10/01/2007 HMP Sudbury	31/08/2009 HMP Ford
Was prisoner on temporary release at time of abscond	No	No	No
Number of offences against prison discipline during this period of custody	30*	29*	38*

Note on table:

*All of these would have been proven and subject to disciplinary punishment.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

It is obviously in general much in the public interest that the names of those escaping and absconding should be made public, but there can be operational or other reasons for not doing so in specific cases. I will write to the hon. and learned Member for Beaconsfield with the name of the offender when the police have confirmed that there is no difficulty in placing this in the public domain.

Over 96 per cent. of prisoners who abscond are re-captured and returned to custody. On recapture the prisoner will be returned to a closed prison and referred to the police for consideration for prosecution for having been unlawfully at large.

TRANSPORT

Rolling Stock

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Mole): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following written ministerial statement:

> In order to replace Britain's ageing fleet of Intercity 125 trains and to invest in capacity and passenger journey improvements on the east coast and Great Western main lines, the Government began the inter-city express programme procurement in 2007. The programme's key objective has been to achieve value for money across the lifetime of the trains, taking account of costs right across the rail industry.
>
> Good progress has been made, including the announcement of Agility Trains as preferred bidder in February 2009. Over the course of the procurement, however, there has been a reduction in the capacity of the debt market to support the transaction as originally envisaged, and passenger growth has also slowed. In addition the Government and Network Rail have committed to electrify the Great Western main line from 2016. The Government have identified appropriate adjustments to the original programme to take account of these developments. This has inevitably extended the contractual negotiations, which are not yet complete and would not be so until mid-March at the earliest.
>
> The negotiations are for a contract of nearly 30 years, a multi-billion pound spend over the course of many Parliaments. In all the circumstances, the Government do not believe it would be appropriate to enter into this particular contract in the immediate run up to a general election. To ensure that a decision is taken at the beginning of the next Parliament on the basis of the fullest evaluation, the Secretary of State has today asked Sir Andrew Foster, former controller of the Audit Commission, to provide an independent assessment of the value for money of the programme and the credibility and the value for money of any alternatives which meet the programme's objectives. It is critical for rail passengers that the right long-term decision is made about the next generation of inter-city trains, which will have a life of 30 years or more.
>
> The existing rolling stock dates back to the 1970s and needs to be replaced. If Sir Andrew Foster reaffirms that the inter-city express programme is better than the alternatives, the Secretary of State's intention would be to proceed with the project in the next Parliament, subject to satisfactory resolution of all the contractual issues.
>
> Sir Andrew Foster will consult Agility Trains, the Department, the relevant train operating companies, the Office of Rail Regulation, Network Rail, passenger groups and the devolved Scottish and Welsh Administrations.
>
> Sir Andrew Foster will report within three months. The report and the Government's response will be published and reported to Parliament. A copy of the letter from the Secretary of State to Sir Andrew Foster has been laid in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 1 March 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Northwest Regional Development Agency Board

The Minister for Regional Economic Development and Co-ordination (Ms Rosie Winterton): I am pleased to announce that I have decided to appoint three new board members to the Northwest Regional Development Agency. These are: Clive Elphick and David Goldie, to fill the two vacant business positions, and Frank Hont to fill the trade union vacancy.

Regional development agencies are playing a crucial role in addressing short-term issues as well as maintaining a long-term vision to help build a resilient economy for the future. The appointees to the Northwest Regional Development Agency board bring a wealth of experience and knowledge which will be extremely valuable to the contribution that the board can make towards the region's economic recovery.

The appointments will commence on the 1 March 2010 and expire on 13 December 2012.

I have placed further details of these appointments, including biographies, in the Libraries of both Houses. I can confirm that the appointments were made in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments code of practice.

DEFENCE

Iraq Historic Allegations Team

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Bill Rammell): The armed forces served with distinction in Iraq in successive Telic operations. A number of allegations of abuse of Iraqi citizens by British service personnel have been brought to our attention by public interest lawyers, and more are anticipated. Many of them are sketchy and incomplete in their details; all relate to events that occurred a long time ago; we are no longer in Iraq in significant numbers; we do not have access to the claimants; and the seriousness of the behaviour alleged varies considerably. Investigating these allegations thus presents a huge challenge. Over 120,000 British service personnel have served in Iraq and the vast, vast majority have conducted themselves to the highest standards of behaviour, displaying integrity and selfless commitment. The uncertainty created by these allegations risks undermining unfairly their reputation and achievements, and we owe to them, and to the claimants, that these allegations are properly investigated.

We are determined, therefore, to ensure that such investigations are carried out thoroughly and expeditiously, so that—one way or another—the truth behind them is established. We firmly believe that open consideration of the issues will establish once and for all that the vast, vast bulk of British forces behaved professionally and responsibly in Iraq in the most challenging of circumstances.

The special investigation branch (SIB) of the Royal Military Police (RMP) has made progress in investigating the claims. To date, we have been treating these allegations on a case-by-case basis, but as more have been brought to our attention we have decided to devote even more resource to this work. Therefore we are looking to set up a dedicated team—the Iraq historic allegations team (IHAT)—to concentrate on these allegations so that they can be addressed as soon as possible.

Some argue that the Government should hold a public inquiry into these allegations: we disagree. We do not believe that a public inquiry would uncover criminal behaviour, but in the unlikely event that it did, a public inquiry would be unable to investigate it fully, even less impose punishments; that would be wrong. Instead we want the administrative court to be assured that, so far as possible, the facts will be investigated—and that this will be done transparently, fully, and in a reasonable timescale. The additional resource which the IHAT represents will help to bring matters to as swift a conclusion as is possible. With this assistance the independent service justice system, including the independent Director of Service Prosecutions (analogous to the DPP), will be able to take appropriate action against anyone who might not have behaved in accordance with the standards which MOD and the armed forces expect of them.

Setting up this new team is not an admission of fault; nothing could be further from the truth. Rather it is a demonstration of the continuing commitment of the MOD and the armed forces to transparency, and our respect for proper investigation. The time has come to deal with these unproven allegations once and for all. We have nothing to fear and everything to gain by this approach, because the truth is important for the vast, vast majority of British troops who behaved to the highest standards in Iraq.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Thames Tunnel Project

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): The building of the Thames tunnel is vital for the future health of Londoners and for the environment and reputation of our capital city. I would like to inform the House that I am minded to direct applications for the tunnel to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC), under Section 35 of the Planning Act 2008, because I believe that this is likely to be the most appropriate and effective way of reaching a decision on this unique and complex project.

Around 32 million cubic metres of untreated sewage and rainwater pollute the River Thames tideway every year from combined sewer overflows (CSOs) when storm water capacity is exceeded. A CSO is a feature of a combined system, introduced for the purpose of relieving the system of flows in excess of a selected rate, the excess flow being discharged to a local receiving water. A combined system is a system that takes in both rainwater and sewage. The discharges occur, on average, once a week and have a significant environmental impact on the river. These discharges can increase the likelihood of fish kills, create a higher health hazard for users of the river, and damage the aesthetic appeal of the Thames. Following the Thames tideway strategic study the Government identified the tunnel, which will intercept around 30 million cubic metres of the average annual discharge, as the best solution to protect the River Thames and to ensure that the capital has a sewerage system able to cope with the impact of population growth, more intense rainfall patterns and the reduction of green space available to soak up rainfall.

I believe the project to be of national significance and I am minded to direct it to the IPC for the following reasons:

> it is essential to meet the ecological water quality objectives of a major river;
>
> it is essential to reduce the risk to human health and prevent negative aesthetic impacts;
>
> the unsatisfactory intermittent discharges cause reputational risk to the UK, detracting from the appeal of the river in the nation's capital, which is otherwise a great asset to residents and visitors alike;
>
> the unique scale and complexity of development will lead to an equally large and complex planning process and the Government have a clear interest in ensuring that the planning process goes as smoothly as possible, to ensure that there are not significant delays in addressing the problems caused by these sewage overflows, while ensuring the process is transparent and that all interested points of view are given a proper opportunity to be heard; and
>
> these improvement works are needed to enable us to continue to meet our obligations under the urban waste water treatment directive. The urgency of the works is increased by the infraction proceedings being pursued against the UK by the European Commission for an alleged breach of the directive.

I believe that a Section 35 direction is likely to offer the most efficient route for a decision on development of the Thames tunnel. The announcement that I am minded to direct the project to the IPC will allow DEFRA to work with the directly affected London boroughs, Thames Water and other London stakeholders to discuss what a Section 35 direction is likely to involve. It will also allow us to include consideration of the Thames tunnel in the national policy statement for waste water.

The ongoing input of local planning authorities and local stakeholders will be vital. Under the Planning Act, scheme promoters have a duty to consult, and local authorities can make representations if they think promoters have not adequately consulted with local authorities on how they carry out their consultation with local communities. This can result in an application not being accepted as valid by the IPC. Local authorities will also be invited to submit local impact reports as part of the IPC's consideration of applications.

A final decision on whether to direct the project to the IPC will not be made until after planning applications are submitted under the Town and Country Planning Act. I do not expect Thames Water to submit these applications before the autumn of 2011.

Further information on the Thames tunnel and DEFRA'S involvement is available on DEFRA'S website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/water/waterquality/sewage/overflows/index.htm

HEALTH

Adult Autism Strategy

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): I am announcing today the Government's intent to publish "Rewarding and fulfilling lives: The strategy for adults with autism in England (2010)" on 3 March. A copy will be placed in the Library and copies will be available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

The Autism Act 2009 was a unique and groundbreaking piece of legislation which signalled this Government's commitment to improve the lives both of people with autism, and their families—and it has been reinforced by a range of action across Government to boost the profile of autism across public services.

The Autism Act committed the Government to publishing a strategy for adults with autism in England no later than 1 April 2010. We are indebted to the hon. Member for Chesham and Amersham (Cheryl Gillan) and the all-party parliamentary group on autism for their work in bringing forward this legislation.

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability and although some people can live relatively independently, others will require a lifetime of specialist care. There are approximately 400,000 adults with autistic spectrum conditions (ASC) in England, around half of whom have a learning disability.

Service-engendered barriers to education, employment and the wider community bring economic disadvantage, social isolation, and mental and physical ill-health for adults with ASC. Therefore, addressing social exclusion for adults with autism is an issue which demands a collective response from services across the public sector.

The autism strategy will set out very clearly what we want for people with autism, and indeed what they should expect from public services and their communities. This new national strategy is an ambitious statement of intent focusing on five core elements:

> increasing awareness and understanding of autism;
>
> developing a clear, consistent pathway for diagnosis in every area, which is followed by the offer of a personalised needs assessment;
>
> improving access for adults with autism to the services and support they need to live independently within the community;
>
> helping adults with autism into work;
>
> and enabling local partners to plan and develop appropriate services for adults with autism to meet identified needs and priorities.

Each of these areas has its own chapter in the strategy. They have been chosen to reflect the findings of the consultation, the themes emerging from the external reference group which supported the strategy's development and the conclusions of important studies such as the NAO report.

Last year's National Audit Office report (5 June 2009) "Supporting People with Autism through Adulthood", reveals widespread evidence of services not meeting need and made a case that investment in services, particularly to support people with high-functioning autism (including Asperger's syndrome) into employment, would deliver substantial savings to the public purse.

The strategy is a practical document. It starts with a long-term vision, but its core is in laying the foundations for long-term change. The overall approach is shaped by existing policy, in particular:

tackling social exclusion;

personalisation of public services as articulated in "Putting People First";

the emphasis on local solutions to meet local needs;

and above all the emphasis on fair chances and opportunities for all.

These form the backdrop to the strategy and give it much of its underlying direction. More specifically, the strategy recognises the breadth of existing policy and programmes that should deliver better for adults with autism. The strategy focuses on how to make these existing policies work better for adults with autism.

The strategy is reinforced by a range of actions across Government:

we are funding a study giving better data on the prevalence of autism in the adult population;

we will publish, before the end of March, a first-year delivery plan to set out in more detail the timescale for implementation in 2010-2011;

we will launch in early summer consultation on statutory guidance for health and social care bodies to support delivery, and publish that guidance before the end of the year;

there will be a new national programme board to oversee delivery;

we will develop delivery plans for years two and three of the strategy to maintain momentum;

and we will review the strategy in 2013.

I am confident that the strategy marks a key milestone on the journey towards full inclusion and equality for people with autism. But real success will depend, ultimately, not only on transforming services, but on changing attitudes across our society. This is not going to happen overnight. We need to work together to achieve our common goal of full inclusion and equality for people with autism.

HOME DEPARTMENT

"International Challenges, International Solutions: Managing the movement of people and goods"

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): I am pleased to announce the joint publication by the UK Border Agency and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of "International Challenges, International Solutions: Managing the movement of people and goods". The document represents the close partnership that exists between our Departments and our close co-operation on the international stage to secure our border and control migration for the benefit of our country.

Today's publication updates on progress since our 2007 international strategy and sets out how the UK Border Agency and the FCO will strengthen existing partnerships and develop new ones to continue to deliver our objectives overseas. It also shows how the Government plan to do more to help developing countries to maximise the development benefits of migration and to mitigate the negative effects where they occur.

We have made impressive progress towards the goals we set out in 2007. Our overseas border controls have been strengthened through the increased use of risk and intelligence tools. The introduction of the points-based system has delivered a transparent system which allows us to adapt entry criteria based on economic or labour market conditions in the UK. We have also worked closely with international partners to improve co-operation on the return of migrants who are not entitled to be in the UK.

While our priority is to pursue the interests of the UK, the impacts of migration on other countries cannot be ignored. We are determined to keep improving our migration policies so that we do more to facilitate overseas development. We are considering policies that aim to contribute towards this goal.

Today's publication sets out proposals to use our overseas networks better to manage migration and to protect Britain's borders. Copies will be made available in the Vote Office and the Library of the House.

JUSTICE

Office of the Public Guardian

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) supports the Public Guardian in discharging his statutory duties under the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

The following list sets out the key performance targets that have been set for the Office of the Public Guardian for the year 2010-11.

KPI 1: Lasting Power of Attorney/Enduring Power of Attorney

Register and return 90 per cent. of applications for registration of attorneyship within nine weeks of receipt.

Target time for the registration of applications is 90 per cent. in nine weeks. This takes into account the increased numbers of LPAs OPG expects to receive and develops the aim from 2009-10 of 80 per cent. registration in eight weeks of receipt; 90 per cent. in nine weeks is more challenging and provides a better service for a larger number of customers.

KPI 2: Supervision of Deputies

All deputyship cases require the allocation of a supervision regime based on risk assessment:

The time scale to notify new deputies within 20 working days remains the same as last year. However, we have increased the target percentage from 90 per cent. to 95 per cent.. This will improve service to more of our customers.

KPI 3: Supervision of Deputies—Case review

A full case review of all deputyship cases subject to supervision will be carried out at least every three years, and this year the target is to review a minimum of 40 per cent. of cases. A case review could be a combination of, review of annual report; carrying out a visit; and review of supervision level following short-term intervention.

Last year the target was to review 10,000 cases that require intermediate and light-touch supervision during 2009-10. The reviews in the coming year will be more specific to the individual issues within the case, and we see this as a key element to helping deputies understand and appreciate the PG supervisory function.

KPI 4: Investigations

Where concerns are raised about actions of an attorney or deputy we will assess risk in 95 per cent. within two working days. Upon receipt of an investigations case in the relevant team, it is allocated to a specific caseworker. We will conclude 75 per cent. of investigations within three months and 95 per cent. of investigations within six months.

The new element in this KPI is to conclude 95 per cent. of investigations within six months. This provides a challenge to ensure the large majority of cases are concluded within a reasonable timescale.

KPI 5: Finance

Based on the statutory instrument for fees approved by Parliament, we will aim to achieve 100 per cent. full cost recovery.

Full cost is defined as:

The total cost of carrying out the provision of services to the taxpayer, less social subsidy/fee remission; financial losses over and above a yearly notional premium; in-year bad debts write-off and exceptional items.

KPI 6: Customer Satisfaction

Achieve 70 per cent. customer satisfaction with OPG service delivery.

This is a new measurement to ensure the OPG maintains and improves the quality of service to its customers.

Copies of the Office of the Public Guardian business plan have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses. It is also available from the OPG website (www.publicguardian.gov.uk).

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 2 March 2010

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Household Energy Management

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Miliband): Together with my right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Minister for Housing, I am publishing today "Warm Homes, Greener Homes: A strategy for Household Energy Management", which sets out the strategy for improving energy efficiency in people's homes through to 2020. Copies of the document will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Improving domestic energy efficiency helps people to make their homes more comfortable, to save money on their energy bills and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This strategy sets out a comprehensive approach to helping people do that across all tenure types.

The strategy will deliver greenhouse gas emissions savings of at least 4 million tonnes of CO_2 per annum by 2020, ensuring the UK hits its target of cutting emissions from households by 29 per cent. by 2020.

The strategy sets out our commitment to support people to install cavity wall and loft insulation in every home where practical to do so by 2015, while increasing the volumes of more significant insulation measures. We will help people to install eco-upgrades to their homes—which go beyond basic measures to include solid wall insulation and/or micro-renewable energy generation—in up to 7 million homes by 2020, on the way to ensuring that all homes have benefited from energy efficiency measures by 2030. There will be particular support for vulnerable groups.

To deliver against these objectives, the strategy sets out a new policy framework. This reflects the fact that the existing obligation for suppliers to support energy efficiency measures is due to expire at the end of 2012, and also the new challenges that need to be overcome to meet our stretching ambitions.

The strategy has four elements:

An enhanced role for local authorities, including a requirement on energy companies to partner with councils to deliver local area-based programmes and further support for district heating;

New financing mechanisms, including an obligation on energy companies to support people to improve their energy efficiency and plans for legislation to enable households to install measures without upfront costs, with repayments made out of the savings in energy bills;

Universal standards for the rented sector, including a new warm homes standard for social housing to complement decent homes and plans for regulation of the private rented sector;

Support for consumers in understanding their options, including a universal advice service, new standards for installation, and plans to make better use of the energy performance certificate.

We estimate that the implementation of this strategy will help support around 65,000 jobs in 2020 in the installation and manufacture of insulation and micro-generation, with further jobs created in the wider supply chain.

The proposals in this strategy signal a step change in the level of ambition for the household sector over the next decade that will put the country on track to meet our carbon targets while at the same time saving families money on their fuel bills, creating jobs and helping to secure our energy supplies.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

EU General and Foreign Affairs Councils

The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant): The General Affairs Council (GAC) and Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) were held on 22 February in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary represented the UK.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL

The full text of all conclusions adopted, including 'A' points, can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/112999.pdf

Haiti

High Representative Ashton gave a positive assessment of the EU's contribution and announced that she would travel to Haiti soon, together with Humanitarian Commissioner Georgieva. The Commission said it would release €5 million (£4.39 million) in budget support within the next few days, rising to €50 million (£43.9 million) in the remainder of 2010; and was committing a further €90 million (£79.1 million) in humanitarian assistance, on top of the €30 million (£26.4 million) already committed, probably primarily for areas outside Port-au-Prince.

The High Representative proposed that the March FAC agree conclusions giving her the mandate to represent the EU at the donors' conference in New York in late March; and that the EU should offer a significant long-run reconstruction package at the conference. Ideas for increasing EU visibility would also be discussed. The Government broadly welcome this approach.

Iran

At the High Representative's request, the Foreign Secretary introduced the discussion. He highlighted that the EU needed to pursue the dual track policy and also increase the pressure in relation to human rights, whilst the E3 plus 3 pursued work on the new UNSCR. Ashton concluded that there was a high degree of consensus around several recommendations: including that the dual-track policy should be pursued "calmly and steadily"; and that the EU should be ready to support the UN track. The Government strongly endorse this approach.

MEPP

This item was dropped from the FAC agenda.

Ukraine

The High Representative welcomed the conduct of the Ukrainian presidential elections. The Commission presented initial proposals for engagement with the new President that set out the reforms required and the EU support on offer. Following a discussion of these proposals, the High Representative noted the support from many member states to engage strongly with the new Ukrainian team, but also the need for progress with reforms on the Ukrainian side. The Government strongly support this approach.

AOB: Afghanistan

The High Representative gave an update on the appointment of an EU special representative to Afghanistan. Once the process is completed, the successful candidate would be double-hatted as the head of the EU delegation in Kabul.

AOB: Belarus

Poland raised the ongoing repression of Belarus' Polish minority. The Commission noted that it had already lobbied the Belarusian Foreign Minister. The High Representative said that the FAC would return to this issue.

AOB: Dubai/passports

Ministers agreed a statement on the killing of Mahmoud al-Mabhouh in Dubai on 20 January. It condemned the fact that those involved in the operation had used passports and credit cards which had been fraudulently acquired through the theft of EU citizens' identities. The Government strongly support the statement. The Foreign Secretary said that the EU needed to think hard about how it could promote peace and stability in the region, because the longer this was left unaddressed, the greater the risk of individual incidents such as this spilling over.

AOB: Libya/Switzerland/visas

Malta, Italy and Spain briefed Ministers on the Libya/Swiss bilateral dispute, which had prompted Libya to refuse visas to citizens of all Schengen countries, including many EU member states. The High Representative concluded that Libya's actions had been disproportionate, and encouraged the Swiss to resolve the matter diplomatically.

AOB: Madeira

Portugal briefed Ministers on the recent flooding and landslides in Madeira. The High Representative said that she was keen to offer Portugal such assistance as possible.

AOB: Niger

The Council discussed briefly the coup d'état in Niger on 18 February and called for the swift restoration of democracy and constitutional order.

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL

The full text of all conclusions adopted can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/112998.pdf

Preparation of the European Council, 25-26 March

The European Council agenda will consist of the Europe 2020 strategy for jobs and growth and climate change. The Government welcome the presidency's choice of topics. The UK agreed that leaders needed continuously to pay attention to economic policy—but in order to make sure that a strategic view and assessment of progress could be made, a dedicated annual economic summit was needed; otherwise, the risk was that strategic consideration of economic policy would be derailed by events. The presidency expressed the need for progress on Europe 2020 at the spring European Council, to show that the EU could deliver for its citizens.

Climate change

The new Climate Action Commissioner, Connie Hedegaard, set out her intentions for European climate policy in the wake of Copenhagen, placing particular emphasis upon the need for better co-ordinated outreach to the major international players. Many member states called for the maintenance of the EU's ambition on climate, for the speedy operationalisation of the Copenhagen accord, and for delivery of the promised fast-start funding, all of which are in line with the UK position.

Dinner with President van Rompuy

The discussion covered the 11 February informal European Council and preparations for the spring European Council. President van Rompuy expressed satisfaction with the 11 February summit, although the dominance of economic issues had left work unfinished on climate change and Haiti, which the GAC and European Council would need to follow up.

A points

The Council adopted the following conclusions or decisions without discussion:

Council conclusions on Zimbabwe

Council conclusions on the Republic of Moldova: Restrictive measures against the leadership of the Moldavian region of Transnistria

Council decision extending restrictive measures against the leadership of the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova

Relations with Morocco: Adoption of the EU position in view of the EU-Morocco summit

Relations with the Kyrgyz Republic: Establishment of the EU position for the 11th meeting of the EU-Kyrgyz Republic Co-operation Council

HEALTH

Future of Nursing and Midwifery

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): Today, on behalf of the Government, I welcome formally the report from the Commission on the Future of Nursing and Midwifery in England.

The commission, chaired by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Health, the hon. Member for Brentford and Isleworth (Ann Keen), was established by the Prime Minister in March 2009 to take a visionary look at how to maximise the contribution of nurses and midwives to the health of the nation in the future.

It undertook an extensive engagement exercise, hearing the views of many thousands of nurses, midwives, patients, and members of the public across England and its report, "Front Line Care", sets out proposals to ensure that the nurses and midwives of the future are at the heart of designing and delivering 21st century health services.

I welcome the messages in the report that the fundamentals of patient care should always remain the core responsibility of nurses and midwives, but also that responsibility for care needs to go right through to the board.

I would like to place my thanks on record to the commission for the work that has led to this report.

My Department and I will consider the contents of the report in detail, and will formally respond in due course.

I am placing a copy of the report in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bangladesh Development Forum

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Michael Foster): The Government of Bangladesh held a high level Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF) meeting in Dhaka on 15-16 February 2010. It was the first such event since 2005, and it took place one year after the current Government took office. The objective of the forum was for the Government to share, and discuss with development partners, their long-term plan to reach middle income status by 2021 (Vision 2021); the content of their new national strategy for accelerated poverty reduction; and their proposed reforms and delivery priorities.

The forum was widely hailed as a success. Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, opened the event, her speech referring specifically to the need for healthy democracy, decentralisation, transparency and anti-corruption. She highlighted the climate change challenge, called for speedy action on Copenhagen "fast-start" finance and emphasised the importance of women's empowerment and gender equity. Her presence increased the profile of the event, attracting substantial national media attention.

Six business sessions covered: development strategies, governance and human development; power and energy; agriculture, food security and water resources; environment and climate change; transport and communications; and "Digital Bangladesh and ICT development". The Minister of Finance A.M.A. Muhith chaired all six business sessions, supported by Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister Moshior Rahman and a number of cabinet ministers and secretaries. The event was well attended by development partners, including 36 development agencies and donors, and more than 80 civil society and private sector representatives. Bangladesh was congratulated on its progress towards the millennium development goals, on its sustained economic growth, and on its climate change strategy.

Improving delivery was at the heart of all discussions, with governance issues—the need for institutional and policy reforms, local government strengthening, improved implementation capacity and reduced corruption—and climate change featuring prominently. The importance of regional links in power, trade, transport and communications, and the need to create a better investment climate in Bangladesh was emphasised. The Finance Minister reaffirmed the Government's determination to increase domestic revenue mobilisation and improve budget implementation.

Commitments were captured in a "BDF agreed action plan", outlining 25 concrete actions for Government to be supported by development partners. The potential for increased transparency and aid effectiveness was boosted by the Government's endorsement of the joint co-operation strategy, produced collectively by 32 development partners operational in Bangladesh and centred around the Paris declaration on aid effectiveness and Accra agenda for action.

The themes emerging from the BDF endorsed the direction the UK's country plan for Bangladesh (2009-2014) is already taking, with our development efforts focused on building effective Government systems and strengthening the political system; improving the delivery of services; working with the private sector to create jobs; and helping the country live with climate change. Future programme direction and ongoing implementation of the existing portfolio will be guided by the BDF outcomes and framed by the joint co-operation strategy.

The Government of Bangladesh used the event to dismiss reports—in the UK and Bangladesh—of a dispute over climate change funding. The Government confirmed their desire to establish a climate change multi-donor trust fund, with grant funding committed from the UK, the European Union and Denmark. The fund will by led by the Government with the World Bank providing technical back-stopping and fiduciary management.

As co-chair of the Local Consultative Group, which represents development partners in Bangladesh, the UK played a central strategic role in preparing for the forum and steering the event. We will continue to work closely with the Government of Bangladesh to ensure that the next steps outlined in the action plan are implemented.

JUSTICE

Bernard Lodge Inquiry

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Claire Ward): Today I have laid before Parliament the Government response to the report of the Inquiry into the death of Bernard Lodge, who died at HMP Manchester on 28 August 1998. I published the report of the inquiry on 15 December 2009.

The National Offender Management Service is committed to learning lessons from all deaths in prison custody.

TRANSPORT

Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): The Department has published today a revised version of its best practice guidance for taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) licensing authorities.

A copy has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

The purpose of the guidance is to assist licensing authorities in carrying out their taxi and PHV licensing functions.

The key aim of the guidance is to ensure that the decisions which licensing authorities make deliver a good and safe service to the public having taken account of all the factors involved, including, for example, the effect on the supply of taxis and PHVs of unnecessary rules and restrictions.

Publication of guidance was initially recommended by the Office of Fair Trading in the context of their market study in 2003. The first guidance was published in 2006. This revised version takes account of comments received as part of a consultation exercise in 2009.

Urban Challenge Fund

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): I am announcing today the Government's plans for a new urban challenge fund designed to support local authorities in delivering economic growth and improving the health and environment for local communities in urban areas.

The Prime Minister's strategy unit report on urban transport and the DFT response "The Future of Urban Transport", published in November 2009, identified a range of transport challenges faced by our cities. It estimated the cost of congestion, in delays and unreliability suffered by road users, to be of the order of £12 billion a year. The PMSU report also indicated that the measurable costs to society of poor air quality, inactivity leading to obesity, and road accidents in urban areas, are each similar to those of congestion. The evidence from the PMSU report is that initiatives geared to tackling the various challenges simultaneously better would achieve "triple win" outcomes in terms of economic growth, improvements to health, and improvement to the urban environment. This new fund will support forward-looking cities and local authorities in delivering these outcomes.

The aim of the new fund will be to deliver clear and measurable benefits for urban areas in terms of:

enhanced mobility, through offering people wider choices for their journeys;

reduced congestion and increased journey time reliability;

better health as a result of improved safety and much greater levels of walking and cycling;

streets and public spaces which are enjoyable places to be, where exposure to harmful emissions is reduced, and where quality of life is transformed;

improved safety; and

reduced level of carbon emission from transport.

The fund will support packages of measures designed to deliver all of these benefits. The packages are likely to include a combination of sustainable travel measures, investment to encourage modal shift and better bus services alongside demand management measures, better and city-wide traffic management and improved street design. Acting together, these measures will deliver a step change in the local economy, the health of urban residents and the environment they enjoy.

The new fund will replace the transport innovation fund. Work by a number of authorities showed that a combination of measures was necessary to tackle the problem of congestion and could deliver wider benefits to local communities, the urban economy and environment. TIF also encouraged new thinking in a number of areas, for example on a phased and incremental approach to demand management. Its weaknesses lay in its too narrow a focus on the issue of congestion, the failure to win public acceptance for the more challenging proposals, and inability to transform governance at the same time as delivering radical change. The new fund will draw on the lessons from TIF and the new ideas that have come forward.

Sustainable travel measures will be a key component of the packages supported by the new fund. The sustainable travel towns initiative has shown that small-scale, relatively inexpensive measures can deliver significant reductions in car trips, increases in bus use, walking and cycling and consequential improvements in health. In order to achieve best value from available resources, the sustainable travel programme for cities will be absorbed into the urban challenge fund. While there will be no separate fund for cities, we would expect these sorts of measures to form part of a wider package of interventions, and deliver even greater benefits than those already achieved through the sustainable travel towns initiative.

The Department will be considering the future of our current congestion performance fund and targets with a view to ensuring there is an integrated approach to addressing all of the challenges in urban areas.

Funding for the urban challenge fund will be top-sliced from the Department's overall funding allocation following conclusion of the next comprehensive spending review.

I am publishing today also a discussion paper inviting comments on the new urban challenge fund. Copies of the discussion paper are being placed in the House Libraries and will also be available on the Department for Transport's website.

WORK AND PENSIONS

National Employment Savings Trust

The Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society (Angela Eagle): Today is another important milestone for the delivery of workplace pension reform. The Personal Accounts Delivery Authority (PADA) has completed its procurement for the scheme administration services for NEST, and will award that contract to Tata Consultancy Services Limited (TCS) later today. PADA plans to sign the contract with TCS later this month.

The 10-year contract has two stages. The first stage runs to October 2010, and enables TCS to begin the activity required to set up and administer NEST. A further decision will be made by October on whether to proceed with the second stage contract for the remainder of the contract term. The contract also includes possible extensions for up to a further five years.

NEST is a critical part of the Government's pension reforms and, as one of the pension schemes employers will be able to use to fulfil their automatic enrolment duties, will play a major role in supporting low to moderate earners in saving for their retirement.

PADA's priority has been to secure value for money for future NEST members. I am satisfied this contract achieves that objective, and we remain on track to deliver the reform package from October 2012.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 3 March 2010

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Zimbabwe: EU Targeted Measures

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): I wish to inform you that on 15 February 2010 the EU decided to extend for one year its targeted measures on Zimbabwe. These comprise an arms embargo, travel ban and assets freeze, with small modifications detailed below. The EU decision is entirely consistent with the UK's Zimbabwe policy: to support reform in line with Zimbabwe's global political agreement.

We have monitored closely the progress of the Inclusive Government since its formation in February 2009, drawing on a wide range of evidence. It has made progress on economic reform: stabilising the economy, improving public financial management and working effectively with the international financial institutions. By contrast, progress on political reform has been slow. A number of key reforms outlined in the global political agreement, which underpins the Inclusive Government, have not been met. These include reform of the media, security apparatus, judiciary, constitution and electoral system. Human rights violations continue, including the harassment of civil society activists, farm seizures and restrictions on the freedom of speech and assembly.

In response to economic reform in Zimbabwe, the EU decided to modify its targeted measures, which it lifted on eight state-owned companies that are now adequately supervised by the Inclusive Government and no longer cause concern (Industrial Development Corporation of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe Iron and Steel Company, ZIMRE Holdings, ZIMRE Reinsurance Company, ZB Financial Holdings, ZB Holdings, Scotfin and Intermarket Holdings). The EU also lifted its targeted measures on five individuals and one company which no longer met EU criteria for inclusion on the list (Richard Hove, Joseph Msika, Vitalis Zvinavashe, Dumiso Dabengwa, Thamer Al-Shanfari and Oryx Diamonds Ltd).

The EU continues fully to support the ongoing efforts of reformers in the Inclusive Government to bring positive change to Zimbabwe, and of South Africa and the Southern African Development Community to support those endeavours. It remains ready to ease its targeted measures in response to further implementation of the reforms outlined in the global political agreement.

For its part, the UK will continue to play a full role in international efforts to support the Inclusive Government in delivering better services to its people and in preparing for free and fair elections. This year we will provide £60 million in aid to Zimbabwe, the highest level ever.

JUSTICE

Legal Aid (Expert Witness Fees)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My noble Friend, the Under-Secretary of State, Lord Bach, has made the following written ministerial statement:

> Following a consultation process, the Government today announce the launch of a new project to review current fee arrangements and deliver new fee structures for professional expert witnesses.
>
> A central working group of key stakeholders involved in experts work will shortly be established to help MoJ gain a greater understanding of the range of work which experts do and how this is currently remunerated. In conjunction with this, a further group of experts will be asked to contribute to a wider reference group.
>
> The new project follows the MoJ's careful consideration of the feedback received to the earlier consultation "Legal Aid: Funding Reforms" where the Government proposed exploring the concept of fixed fees and hourly rates for experts work.
>
> As a result of the wide range of responses received from experts, legal practitioners and other representative bodies, the Government have decided that additional analysis of this complex area is needed to ensure that any future fee structures are both sustainable and fair.
>
> By seeking greater control over expert fees, the Government aim to reduce disbursement spend to a more sustainable level, while maintaining access to justice through the provision of key expert evidence.
>
> It is intended that the project will report to Ministers with proposals for a new fee structure within six months.
>
> Copies of "Legal Aid: Funding Reforms Part Three Experts' Fees—Response to Consultation" have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Legal Aid

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I am publishing today the report of Sir Ian Magee's review into legal aid delivery and governance and announcing the Government's decision to move the Legal Services Commission (LSC) to an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).

I asked Sir Ian to conduct this review, which was announced in October 2009, to ensure that the legal aid budget is delivering value for money, providing a healthy and sustainable future for social welfare advice as well as considering how best to position and protect the civil fund from the criminal fund. I am extremely grateful to Sir Ian for his work.

Sir Ian's report makes a number of recommendations to strengthen and improve the legal aid system including actions to strengthen governance and accountability arrangements, streamline policy and to establish a more rigorous approach towards legal aid fund forecasting and financial management. His report includes the option of moving the LSC to an executive agency.

It is 10 years since the LSC was established and in that time there have been considerable changes in the type of legal advice and services that the public needs. The UK has one of the most generous legal aid schemes in the world and the Government are committed to ensuring legal aid is managed effectively so that more people are able to access it to resolve their legal problems. In the current climate, it is even more important that this public money is managed efficiently and effectively.

It is the right time to make some meaningful changes now that will help us protect and sustain the world-class legal aid service that we are so proud to deliver to England and Wales. The Government believe that an executive agency is the best option for the delivery of legal aid and a Bill will be brought forward as soon as parliamentary time allows. Over the coming weeks, we will consider Sir Ian's other recommendations which will be taken forward in parallel with the move to agency status.

The change in status will see a new and stronger relationship between the MoJ and the LSC and tighter financial control over the £2.1 billion budget, which allows the MoJ to help control and address some of the financial problems that have been noted over the past year. It also presents an opportunity for the Government to consider Sir Ian's other options for structuring the delivery of legal aid, including through devolving budgets, to help protect funding for social welfare legal advice from rising demand for criminal legal aid.

Alongside today's publication, the chief executive of the LSC, Carolyn Regan, has announced her resignation to allow for new leadership during a time of change for the organisation. Carolyn Regan has served as the chief executive of the LSC for three and a half years.

Conditional Fee Agreements

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): Further to my written ministerial statement on 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 14WS, I have published today the Government's response to the consultation paper entitled "Controlling Costs in Defamation Proceedings—Reducing Conditional Fee Agreement Success Fees". As the response sets out, the Government have decided to proceed with the proposal to reduce the maximum success fee which can be claimed in Conditional Fee Agreements (CFAs) in defamation cases to 10 per cent. I have laid an affirmative order before Parliament today to achieve that.

Our consultation paper sought views on the Government's interim proposal to reduce the maximum CFA success fee in defamation cases while we consider Sir Rupert Jackson's substantial report, "Review of Civil Litigation Costs", published on 14 January, for longer-term reform.

As the consultation paper recognised, high legal costs in defamation cases—particularly in defending claims brought under a CFA with 100 per cent. success fees—may have a harmful effect on freedom of expression. This affects not only the media, but also scientific and academic debate.

The consultation closed on 16 February. A total of 57 responses were received, including from legal professionals and their representative organisations, members of the judiciary, media organisations and from legal insurance groups. More than half (53 per cent.) of those who responded supported the proposal to reduce the maximum CFA success fee in defamation cases to 10 per cent. The response paper summarises the responses received and the Government's conclusions.

Since that consultation closed, the Culture Media and Sport Committee has published the report of their inquiry into press freedom, libel and privacy (on 24 February 2010). The Committee agrees with our proposal that the impact of success fees on defendants should be capped at 10 per cent. However, the Committee considers that recoverability—rather than the success fee itself—should be capped at 10 per cent.

The Government are actively assessing the implications of Sir Rupert's recommendations, and will announce how they are to be taken forward in due course. The Government are also considering the Committee's report and will respond to the Committee's recommendations shortly. However, in the meantime we are minded to implement the proposal to reduce the maximum CFA success fee in defamation cases to 10 per cent. immediately as an interim measure so that the specific concerns around high costs in defamation cases can be addressed urgently.

I have therefore today laid the Conditional Fee Agreements (Amendment) Order 2010 before Parliament so that the success fee reduction can come into force as soon as possible subject to parliamentary approval. The order will apply to CFAs in respect of defamation cases entered into after the date on which the order comes into force.

Copies of the response paper will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Department's website at: www.justice.gov.uk.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Decommissioning

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): I have received the report of the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD) on their activity over the last six months, up to the end of the British and Irish decommissioning amnesties. I have placed a copy of the report in the Library.

I pay tribute to the tireless work of the IICD over the last 12 years in securing this progress. Their contribution has been a central part of the peace and political process over many years. The people of Northern Ireland will be safer with these illegal arms out of circulation.

Now that the decommissioning amnesties have expired, I will discuss the finalisation of the IICD's work with the Irish Government and with the IICD. The two Governments will be asking the IICD for a report covering the whole of their 12 years experience and, of course, a report on armaments decommissioned. I will need to discuss the scope and timing of the report with the IICD and the Irish Government. John de Chastelain and his team have an enormous wealth of experience and wisdom that needs to be properly captured and understood before we finally end their role.

Non-Jury Trial (Northern Ireland)

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): During the passage of the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007 commitments were given that a statement would be made to Parliament each year on the volume of non-jury trial cases under the legislation. This is the second such statement.

During the period 1 August 2008 to 31 July 2009 inclusive, the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland issued 13 certificates. This is fewer than the 29 certificates issued during the first year of operation of the system, but indicates that there are still a number of cases in which the Director of Public Prosecutions was satisfied that the administration of justice might be impaired if the trial were to be conducted with a jury.

There will be a review of the non-jury trial system, including a full public consultation, before it next falls to be renewed in July 2011.

TRANSPORT

Powered Mobility Scooters and Powered Wheelchairs

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): I am announcing today the publication of the consultation on proposed changes to the laws governing the use of powered mobility vehicles and powered wheelchairs (referred to as "invalid carriages" in legislation). Copies of the consultation and impact assessment have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

The primary legislation governing mobility vehicles is the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 (section 20). The Use of Invalid Carriages on Highways Regulations 1970 introduced the requirements for a powered invalid carriage with a speed not exceeding 4 mph (a class 2 vehicle is primarily for use on the pavement). The Use of Invalid Carriages on Highways Regulations 1988 brought in additional requirements for a class 3 vehicle which can travel up to 8 mph on the road but must be limited to 4 mph on pavements.

A review of class 2 and class 3 vehicles was carried out on behalf of the Department for Transport in 2005. It estimated that there were between 70,000 and 100,000 vehicles in use. More recent information from the national travel survey, however, suggests that there may now be up to 330,000 people who have access to a mobility vehicle. The review also made some key recommendations: that vehicle users should have third-party insurance; that a simple fitness to drive assessment be developed; and that vehicle users should receive more advice and training in the use of mobility vehicles.

The 12-week consultation seeks views on a series of possible changes to existing legislation. The proposed changes are largely designed to make mobility vehicles safer when they are used on the footway and on the carriageway, and to improve redress when, very occasionally their use injures people. The main areas that the consultation addresses are: the legal classification; design standards, including the permitted unladen weights limits and safety features; possible reforms relating to vehicle users, including better information provision, training and fitness to drive, insurance and the registration of mobility vehicles.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 4 March 2010

TREASURY

Equitable Life

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Liam Byrne): I can today provide an update to the House on Sir John Chadwick's work in advising the Government on the establishment of an ex gratia payment scheme for Equitable Life policyholders.

Sir John published his second interim report on 16 December 2009. He has since received a range of representations on the questions raised, and is today publishing his third and final interim report, which sets out:

> Sir John's provisional view on which life companies are suitable as a basis for a comparator in the assessment of relative loss resulting from accepted maladministration.
>
> His provisional views as to what factors the Government may wish to take into account when considering those policyholders who have experienced disproportionate impact from the accepted maladministration, and
>
> A comprehensive annex detailing initial quantitative advice from Sir John's actuarial advisers, Towers Watson.

Sir John would welcome final representations and comments from all parties on the issues raised in his latest report by 9 April 2010.

The Government are committed to establishing a fair payment scheme as quickly as possible. Sir John expects to submit his final report in May 2010, and the Government have undertaken to provide a response, setting out details of a payment scheme, within 14 days of its publication.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Town and Country Planning

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Ian Austin): One of the consequences of the 2010 non-domestic rate revaluation, which comes into effect on 1 April, is that certain thresholds linked to rateable value limits also have to be raised so that small businesses are not disadvantaged.

I am therefore announcing today that we intend to raise the annual rateable value limit below which the owners of small businesses can serve blight notices and claim other types of compulsory purchase compensation. The limit was previously raised to £29,200 at the time of the 2005 revaluation, and it will now be raised to £34,800 from 1 April 2010. This reflects the changes in rateable values between 2005 and 2010, so that businesses which are currently eligible to serve a blight notice will continue to be able to do so when the new rating lists come into effect.

The same threshold also applies for businesses claiming compensation for loss of value under part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 when their premises are affected by physical factors such as noise, vibration, fumes and artificial lighting from new public works such as highways and aerodromes.

This threshold also applies under the 1973 Act to enable proprietors aged at least 60 to claim disturbance compensation on the basis of the total extinguishment of their business when they are subject to a compulsory purchase order. This allows claimants of that age to retire if they do not want to re-establish their business elsewhere.

The Town and Country Planning (Blight Provisions) (England) Order 2010 (SI No: 2010/498), which is the Statutory Instrument necessary to achieve the change to the rateable value limit, will be laid today in order for it to come into force on 1 April.

HEALTH

GP Practices (Registration)

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): In a great NHS, everybody should be able to choose the best and most convenient service for themselves and their families. We believe people should have the freedom to choose their own GP practice, and not be faced by artificial restrictions, like practice boundaries, that limit choice.

Our overriding objective is to deliver the best possible service to patients. People want healthcare that is more personalised and convenient, so primary care services must respond to provide this.

The Department is commencing today a national consultation on the proposals to enable people to register with a GP practice of their choice. The proposals have been developed following a period of initial engagement with stakeholders from the NHS, professional groups, and patient representatives.

Most people are likely to want to continue to be registered with a local GP practice that can offer home visits when necessary and is well placed to co-ordinate care with other local agencies. The proposals in the consultation document are designed to build on these existing strengths of general practice and indeed give people a greater choice of local GP practices.

In a smaller number of cases, some people may want to choose a GP practice further away from home, for instance near their workplace, that enables them to have more convenient access to primary care and to have greater continuity of care than they have at present. The options in the consultation look in particular at the issues involved in arranging home visits, where needed, for people in this group, together with issues of access to urgent care, co-ordination of community-based services, access to hospital and specialist treatment and patient records.

The options identified in relation to home visiting arrangements are:

> GP practices to continue to have responsibility for home visiting for local patients. PCTs will make arrangements to provide home visits, where necessary, for patients who register further away from home;
>
> maintain the requirement for GP practices to provide or secure home visits for all patients on their list, regardless of where they live;
>
> allow patients to register with two separate GP practices; or
>
> remove all home visiting obligations from GP practices and make PCTs responsible for establishing home visiting arrangements.

The consultation document recommends the first of these options. It would allow people to register with any GP practice in England with an open list. There would be a simple set of principles to distinguish between the majority of patients who are registering locally (where the local GP practice would retain the duty to provide or secure home visits where necessary) and a small number of patients who are registering further away from home (for whom other home visiting arrangements would be needed).

A copy of the consultation document has been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Immigration and Asylum (War Crimes)

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): The Race Relations (Immigration and Asylum) (War Crimes etc.) Authorisation 2007 enables the Secretary of State to subject certain applications to more rigorous scrutiny than he subjects like applications from persons of other nationalities to, for the purposes of determining whether the applicant has committed, or been complicit in the commission of, or otherwise been associated with the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide.

The condition for subjecting these applications to more rigorous scrutiny is that the applicant is a national of a state specified on a list approved personally by the Minister for the purpose of the authorisation.

I have now reviewed and approved this list in accordance with our commitment to do so annually. I am satisfied that the conditions set out in the authorisation are met in respect of the countries on the list.

The authorisation will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis and will remain in force until revoked.

JUSTICE

Arrest Warrants (Universal Jurisdiction)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The Government are concerned about the implications for the United Kingdom's relations with other states of the risk that foreign visitors to this country might be arrested on the application of a private individual, on suspicion of the gravest of offences, on the basis of evidence that might well be insufficient to gain the Attorney-General's consent (which is normally required for offences of this kind to be prosecuted), or to secure a conviction by a jury.

The problem is not hypothetical, as applications for an arrest warrant have been made, on at least two occasions successfully; and there is reason to believe that the risk of arrest may discourage prominent people, with whom HM Government would wish to engage, from visiting this country.

The problem arises as a result of four factors:

> (1) The jurisdiction of the courts in England and Wales is basically territorial—with some exceptions they try only offences committed here. However, war crimes under the Geneva Conventions Act 1957, and a small number of other grave offences, are subject to "universal jurisdiction" which enables them to be prosecuted here even though they were committed outside the United Kingdom by someone who is not a British national.
>
> (2) It is open to any private individual to initiate criminal proceedings, including for universal jurisdiction offences, by applying to a magistrate for a summons or an arrest warrant.
>
> (3) The evidence required for the issue of a summons or warrant is far less onerous than that applied by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in determining whether a prosecution should go ahead. The court's duty is to ascertain that it has jurisdiction; it then looks to see if there is some prima facie information that an offence known to the law has been committed by the person named. The court does not need to decide that there is a realistic prospect of conviction.
>
> (4) For almost all universal jurisdiction offences there is a safeguard in that the consent of the Attorney-General is required in order for a prosecution to go ahead. But while a summons will not be issued until the necessary consent has been given for the prosecution to proceed, absence of consent does not prevent the issue of an arrest warrant.

The facility for seeking an arrest warrant in these circumstances without the prior consent of the prosecutor is unusual. It is paralleled in only a very few other jurisdictions of which we are aware. In most jurisdictions prosecutorial consent is required.

The Government have considered this matter very carefully. They have concluded that there is a case for restricting to the CPS the right to prosecute this narrow range of universal jurisdiction offences, in circumstances where the offence is alleged to have been committed outside the United Kingdom by a person who is not a British national. The effect of this change—which would require legislation—would be that in such cases it would no longer be possible for anyone other than the CPS (or the Law Officers) to obtain an arrest warrant. This would ensure that action is taken only where the expert and independent investigators and prosecutors in the police and CPS are confident that there is a realistic likelihood of a successful prosecution.

Our commitment to international justice is a strong one. This is why, by section 70 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, we recently amended the International Criminal Court Act 2001 to ensure that we could prosecute serious international crimes committed as far back as 1991 by UK nationals and residents, thus covering the horrific events in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. We remain absolutely committed to upholding the principles of universal jurisdiction, so that there can be no impunity for those suspected of such grave offences. What we propose is wholly consistent with those principles, and would bring us into line with the practice of a number of our European and North American partners.

The Government recognise that this is a controversial issue, involving as it does the long-standing right of private prosecution. Therefore, rather than legislating now, we are going to seek views on the proposals we are minded to make. In particular, I am writing to the Chairman of the Justice Select Committee to ask if his Committee would consider those proposals. We intend to conclude this process within a month, and to receive views by Tuesday 6 April. A copy of my letter to the Chairman will shortly be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 5 March 2010

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Pupils with Severe, Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (Teachers)

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): On 28 September 2009 I asked Toby Salt to carry out a review to identify key barriers to the supply of adequately trained teachers for pupils with severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties (SLD and PMLD), and opportunities to improve this supply for the future.

This is an important and timely review, which is a vital part of the Government's wider significant investment in the SEN sector. I am very grateful for Toby Salt and his review team's swift and thorough work on this.

The report calls for more to be done to attract and retain specialist teachers to meet the growing demand for their skills, and to build the next generation of teachers with specialist skills. The evidence in the report highlights examples of existing good practice and specialist training, but also significant gaps in specialist knowledge and skills, and opportunities to acquire these, which it recommends be addressed urgently. These include:

improving the range of specialist opportunities offered to trainee and newly qualified teachers, to encourage and inform entry into specialist teaching;

increasing the quality and consistency of specialist professional development opportunities available to experienced teachers in mainstream and special schools, to widen and share specialist skills and build on good practice;

addressing leadership issues in this specialist sector—a disproportionally high level of leaders in special schools are nearing retirement age, whose expertise will need to be replaced over the next five to seven years.

Evidence to inform the review was gathered from teachers, local authorities, training providers, parents and parent networks, social partners and other national organisations, through a public call for evidence and in-depth interviews. Existing data and research were also reviewed, including information on relevant international teacher supply systems. An expert advisory group of specialists in SLD, PMLD and wider SEN issues provided challenge and support to the work.

We accept all of the recommendations in the review and my Department will publish a plan later this month to set out how Toby Salt's recommendations will be implemented, and how, over the next year, we will develop:

A partnership with Teach First to bring top graduates into specialist teaching. Teacher training pilots will allow more graduates to gain the skills they need to teach these children;

A new six-month specialist course for new teachers to enable them better to prepare for their first job working with children with severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties;

New arrangements to collect data on specialist teacher demand and supply to manage supply effectively for the future;

New training on severe learning difficulties, through the TDA, to ensure that all teachers have access to the quality professional development materials that they need to develop their skills

Copies of Toby Salt's report and our initial response have today been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

DEFENCE

Gurkha Pension Scheme (Annual Uplift)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): I am pleased to inform the House that with effect from 1 April 2010 there will be an increase in pensions paid through the Gurkha pension scheme of 11.3 per cent. This is in line with inflation in Nepal.

It has always been our policy to ensure that Gurkha pensioners are treated fairly. The Gurkha pension scheme currently costs some £55 million per year and will now rise to £62 million as a result of this uplift.

This increase ensures that Gurkha pensions are kept at a fair and appropriate level and demonstrates our continuing commitment to the Gurkha pension scheme. It also reinforces the UK's long-standing links with the Government of Nepal, which we greatly value and would wish to maintain.

HEALTH

Basildon and Thurrock University NHS Foundation Trust

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): Following my statements to the House on 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, c. 855-870 and 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, c. 13WS, I wish further to update the House on the situation at Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Chris Mellor, acting chair of Monitor, the regulatory body for NHS foundation trusts, has written to me about the progress being made at the trust. His letter dated 19 February 2010 has been copied to all local MPs and has also been placed in the Library.

Monitor has advised that further progress has been made at the trust since December 2009. With the support of the taskforce, the trust board has put in place a series of key performance indicators (KPIs) aimed at focusing attention on the areas of greatest clinical concern.

The trust has responded to specific concerns around hospitalised standardised mortality rations (HSMR), hygiene and children's services and learning disability services and each of these areas are actively being monitored. The taskforce has reported that progress has been made, especially against HSMR and hygiene. However, concerns remain around the pace and sustainability of progress when the taskforce exits, governance at board level, and board leadership.

Monitor has advised me of one further quality issue since my last statement, which was an outbreak of Legionella affecting two patients at the trust. Legionella is an ongoing risk at the trust and they have significant monitoring and controls in place as a result.

Monitor has advised that while it is somewhat encouraged by the quality improvements that have been made, it is not yet in receipt of all the information required to make a full assessment of the extent and pace of progress. This will be clearer in the next month when Monitor expect to receive the Dr. Foster data on HSMR for December 2009 (these data are subject to a three-month lag time), the outcome of the CQC registration process, further progress against the agreed KPIs and the independent report assessing governance arrangements at the trust.

I will receive regular updates once Monitor's board has reviewed the trust's progress and will continue to provide these updates to the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Post-Council Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council was held on 25 and 26 February 2010 in Brussels. My noble Friend, the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Lord Bach and I attended on behalf of the United Kingdom. The following issues were discussed at the Council.

The interior day began with a presentation by Cecilia Malmström, the new Commissioner for Home Affairs, on her forthcoming priorities, which included publishing the results of a study of measures already in place on passenger name records (PNR), which had been promised to the European Parliament, and a new proposal on EU PNR. The Government welcomed the Commissioner's commitment to the PNR initiative and looked forward to seeing a proposal—in March if possible—highlighting that this should also cover intra-EU flights.

Following this, the Council agreed the internal security strategy (ISS) without amendment. President Van Rompuy had agreed to bring the strategy to the spring European Council. The Government strongly support the ISS, particularly references to an EC organised crime strategy.

The presidency updated the Council on the first COSI (Standing Committee on operational co-operation on internal security) meeting, which will take place on 11 March. Member states identified five key objectives for this committee: a partly operational and partly strategic role; co-ordinating the various agencies in the EU; assuming the functions of the Police Chiefs' task force; assessing the effectiveness of existing legislative instruments; and providing the Council with regular reports on internal security. The Government have supported the creation of COSI and look forward to its first meeting.

The presidency presented the first draft of the European Pact On International Drug Trafficking. The Government supported this initiative emphasising the need to ensure tangible output, proactive engagement with third countries, a focus on the East to tackle the supply chain, including those responsible at the top, and to take into account ongoing activity and the EU drugs action plan. Work will be taken forward at expert-level working groups, with the intention of agreeing the pact by the end of the Spanish presidency.

The Council discussed briefly the next steps in resolving the Czech Republic-Canada visa situation. An experts' meeting would take place on 15 March; the Commission urged Canada and the Czech Republic to solve their visa dispute before reporting back to the April JHA Council.

A restricted session looked at the next steps for the US terrorist tracking finance programme, following the European Parliament's decision to reject the Council decision to conclude the EU-US agreement (SWIFT). Both Justice and Interior Ministers agreed that they wanted a new permanent agreement between the EU and US as soon as possible.

Over lunch, Interior Ministers discussed the current Libya-Switzerland visa dispute. The presidency said events had significantly improved over the previous 10 days, with the short-term goal being the release of the remaining Swiss citizen in prison. Longer term, the requirement would be to address the link between Schengen arrangements and relationships with third countries.

After lunch, the Mixed Committee (with non-EU Schengen States) had a brief discussion on the Schengen Information System II (SIS II). A statement, included in the Council minutes and agreed by member states, indicated that a decision on the future of SIS II would be taken at the April JHA Council following analysis of the results of the first milestone test in January. The presidency and Commission would take all steps necessary to ensure that the required information was made available in order to make a well-informed decision. The Government highlighted that if a decision were taken to terminate SIS II, member states needed to ensure that any chosen alternative had to be a viable option.

The presidency presented draft conclusions on measures for reinforcing the protection of the external border and combating illegal immigration. The Government said this was an important long-term issue for all member states and emphasised co-operation with third countries and combating organised illegal crime as priorities. Successful projects with Turkey and Libya had demonstrated what could be achieved to prevent illegal border crossing but the EU needs also to complement this with increased efforts on returns.

The Commission introduced new draft legislation to strengthen Frontex. The Government welcomed Frontex's work to date and hoped the new instrument would include measures to enable our officers to continue to participate in joint operations. The Government also looked forward to Frontex doing more work in assisting returns in future and welcomed stronger Frontex co-operation with third countries, but regretted the lack of a provision to use personal data (which was critical in tackling the criminal gangs facilitating illegal migration). The Commission said it would carry out an overview of the EU-wide data exchange infrastructure before proposing anything concrete on personal data exchange for Frontex.

Finally, the Frontex executive director gave a presentation on the current situation at the EU's external border and new work programme initiatives for 2010.

During the day the Council also adopted the A points where the UK national member to Eurojust, Aled Williams, was confirmed as the new president of Eurojust. Malta was agreed as the site of the European asylum support office.

The justice day began with the new Commissioner for Freedom, Security and Justice, Viviane Reding, deliver a short presentation of her work. The presidency then outlined the state of play on the negotiations on a proposed directive on the European protection order, designed to protect victims of domestic violence. The Government confirmed their support for the objectives of the proposal and thanked the presidency for its work.

The presidency then provided Justice Ministers with information about the state of play on the negotiations on the proposed directive on interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings. The Government support this proposal and, following a discussion, the presidency concluded that it would give priority to reaching a rapid agreement.

The Council adopted the updated model agreement on joint investigation teams (JITs). The Government fully support this agreement which is based on practical experience and good practice.

During a presentation and debate on EU accession to the European convention of human rights, the presidency emphasised their intention to move the accession process along as quickly as possible. The Government, and all other member states that intervened, expressed support for accession as soon as possible and for early agreement on an appropriate mandate for negotiations with the Council of Europe.

Police Use of Firearms in England and Wales (2008-09)

The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson): The latest figures from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 show that:

The number of police operations in which firearms were authorised was 19,951—an increase of 57 (0.3 per cent.) on the previous year.

The number of authorised firearms officers (AFO's) was 6,868—an increase of 88 (1.3 per cent.) officers overall on the previous year.

The number of operations involving armed response vehicles was 16,564—an increase of 1,139 (7.4 per cent.) on the previous year.

The police discharged a conventional firearm in four incidents (down from seven incidents in 2007-08).

Full details are set out in the tables below:

Table 1. Number of operations in which firearms were authorised

	Year							
	2001-2	*2002-3*	*2003-4*	*2004-5*	*2005-6*	*2006-7*	*2007-8*	*2008-9*
AVON & SOMERSET	195	262	311	333	247	285	328	339
BEDFORDSHIRE	237	301	442	475	575	663	1,217	1,229
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	114	57	104	241	201	207	316	460
CHESHIRE	419	451	397	358	367	340	317	269
CLEVELAND	37	170	453	530	657	293	577	667
CITY OF LONDON	40	131	364	404	323	239	365	63
CUMBRIA	71	77	72	152	112	92	92	86
DERBYSHIRE	275	401	369	287	305	223	211	310
DEVON & CORNWALL	101	96	112	71	84	80	143	170
DORSET	184	193	231	223	263	354	258	369
DURHAM	89	83	156	144	291	340	206	181
ESSEX	323	312	275	296	432	245	529	529
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	165	185	127	176	229	280	162	132
GTR MANCHESTER	580	518	507	461	478	481	497	524
HAMPSHIRE	198	162	208	237	289	352	382	362
HERTFORDSHIRE	112	172	195	185	187	280	303	343
HUMBERSIDE	297	187	183	206	362	235	209	123
KENT	115	137	207	163	219	170	202	280
LANCASHIRE	232	238	318	241	240	410	388	281
LEICESTERSHIRE	300	268	295	260	363	334	318	347
LINCOLNSHIRE	477	392	386	294	220	157	158	133
MERSEYSIDE	1.020	628	751	733	669	727	829	556
METROPOLITAN	2.447	3.199	3.563	2,964	4,711	3,878	4,948	5,044
NORFOLK	175	200	178	195	175	153	174	274
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	43	138	148	158	137	156	159	120
NORTHUMBRIA	[illegible]	1.275	1.140	977	611	332	229	154
NORTH YORKSHIRE	92	100	147	185	183	282	329	289
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	384	452	459	408	394	289	270	245
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	258	463	484	546	749	737	628	538
STAFFORDSHIRE	232	281	255	216	171	250	244	209
SUFFOLK	163	270	251	153	202	256	193	237
SURREY	245	247	203	151	222	222	375	479
SUSSEX	248	204	280	187	190	201	331	331

Table 1: Number of operations in which firearms were authorised

	Year							
	2001-2	*2002-3*	*2003-4*	*2004-5*	*2005-6*	*2006-7*	*2007-8*	*2008-9*
THAMES VALLEY	179	167	195	289	427	264	293	344
WARWICKSHIRE	130	149	164	124	180	162	150	145
WEST MERCIA	117	91	197	162	122	155	202	145
WEST MIDLANDS (1)	822	902	1,377	1,264	1,044	1,557	1,063	1,109
WEST YORKSHIRE	757	604	575	853	1,335	1,272	1,130	1,367
WILTSHIRE	45	58	63	88	139	226	128	158
DYFED POWYS	28	29	28	51	63	72	155	92
GWENT	20	37	40	81	94	133	324	152
NORTH WALES	302	259	197	223	350	340	259	185
SOUTH WALES	283	281	250	236	279	308	293	555
TOTAL	13,991	14,827	16,657	15,981	18,891	18,032	19,894	19,951

Source: See Notes for tables

1. Revised figures for 2007-8 from West Midlands Police

Table 2: Number of authorised firearms officers (AFOs)

	Year							
	2001-2	*2002-3*	*2003-4*	*2004-5*	*2005-6*	*2006-7*	*2007-8*	*2008-9*
AVON & SOMERSET	116	84	122	118	117	103	123	127
BEDFORDSHIRE	48	53	58	56	59	57	53	50
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	56	71	60	60	50	46	49	51
CHESHIRE	81	89	75	76	73	80	72	88
CLEVELAND	85	80	95	100	100	105	97	83
CITY OF LONDON	73	72	86	89	86	45	49	50
CUMBRIA	92	87	89	90	89	90	97	86
DERBYSHIRE	80	69	70	74	75	69	61	61
DEVON & CORNWALL	108	115	132	123	122	132	142	146
DORSET	57	59	60	64	62	67	71	79
DURHAM	86	102	97	103	100	102	89	82
ESSEX	180	184	186	202	205	220	225	223
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	71	80	82	93	92	94	95	97
GTR MANCHESTER	219	202	205	187	245	217	250	296
HAMPSHIRE	87	94	94	92	97	83	85	93
HERTFORDSHIRE	46	47	50	53	52	49	53	50
HUMBERSIDE	96	96	96	101	92	83	87	80
KENT	113	93	90	94	94	98	87	110
LANCASHIRE	138	129	122	115	123	103	143	105
LEICESTERSHIRE	69	68	51	53	59	67	64	73
LINCOLNSHIRE	91	87	78	86	87	75	77	69
MERSEYSIDE	78	84	94	93	129	139	153	154
METROPOLITAN	1,805	1,823	2,060	2,134	2,331	2,584	2,530	2,740
NORFOLK	104	109	114	125	119	127	114	106
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	51	56	52	50	56	59	53	50
NORTHUMBRIA	125	99	90	93	98	92	96	95
NORTH YORKSHIRE	66	64	60	56	78	67	67	63
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	136	131	138	138	149	146	137	133
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	92	100	98	122	116	118	106	99
STAFFORDSHIRE	71	63	67	76	70	82	82	75
SUFFOLK	90	80	96	88	84	78	74	67
SURREY	62	48	53	49	51	45	54	54
SUSSEX	120	141	134	130	129	129	123	123
THAMES VALLEY	156	180	172	176	180	186	180	180
WARWICKSHIRE	50	51	46	53	55	59	63	66
WEST MERCIA	125	131	139	141	152	133	163	99
WEST MIDLANDS	111	110	124	134	145	175	177	165
WEST YORKSHIRE	116	132	140	130	150	148	147	135
WILTSHIRE	71	78	80	74	72	69	67	74
DYFED POWYS	77	62	58	79	68	72	67	63
GWENT	57	60	71	74	86	64	63	54
NORTH WALES	83	75	73	65	57	56	57	53
SOUTH WALES	138	125	139	134	130	115	138	121
TOTAL	5,776	5,763	6,096	6,243	6,584	6,728	6,780	6,868

Source: See Notes for tables

Table 3: Number of operations involving armed response vehicles (ARVs)

	Year							
	2001-2	*2002-3*	*2003-4*	*2004-5*	*2005-6*	*2006-7*	*2007-8*	*2008-9*
AVON & SOMERSET	173	215	249	312	167	192	292	231
BEDFORDSHIRE	172	269	414	419	534	639	1,171	1,188
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	43	45	155	172	160	172	221	366
CHESHIRE	523	337	356	773	807	793	642	221
CLEVELAND	13	63	86	154	285	290	554	661
CITY OF LONDON	39	131	364	275	234	183	200	63
CUMBRIA	53	45	65	134	[illegible]	72	74	56
DERBYSHIRE	253	363	312	254	257	183	187	252
DEVON & CORNWALL	76	32	94	54	54	76	120	138
DORSET	182	180	215	195	246	322	238	347
DURHAM	57	66	96	91	256	204	192	164
ESSEX	165	176	138	138	155	224	226	391
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	140	166	109	121	145	213	147	120
GTR MANCHESTER	528	406	440	364	306	214	196	460
HAMPSHIRE	116	108	128	167	178	270	271	247
HERTFORDSHIRE	81	129	157	155	160	226	262	311
HUMBERSIDE	273	170	158	184	335	232	183	94
KENT	89	132	193	124	183	373	364	325
LANCASHIRE	192	185	273	228	232	383	313	279
LEICESTERSHIRE	292	232	269	232	328	313	268	332
LINCOLNSHIRE	470	367	355	276	210	147	153	128
MERSEYSIDE	974	547	687	677	611	644	734	445
METROPOLITAN	1,667	2,447	2,423	2,322	2,572	2,770	2,303	3,283
NORFOLK	157	186	169	163	149	133	165	252
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	25	90	99	89	101	119	127	117
NORTHUMBRIA	1,349	1,204	1,063	893	585	299	199	129
NORTH YORKSHIRE	60	67	110	144	208	268	318	287
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	333	397	404	336	342	256	246	197
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	221	280	322	438	632	522	493	387
STAFFORDSHIRE	208	241	212	183	154	222	231	192
SUFFOLK	116	160	194	119	149	204	148	206
SURREY	225	240	190	140	204	209	380	469
SUSSEX	189	171	250	163	162	165	311	248
THAMES VALLEY	174	167	179	265	355	227	254	292
WARWICKSHIRE	104	31	138	102	144	121	113	100
WEST MERCIA	100	111	241	152	94	120	121	128
WEST MIDLANDS [1]	563	592	975	952	745	518	716	739
WEST YORKSHIRE	609	565	543	656	1,040	1,048	1,098	1,361
WILTSHIRE	43	39	28	54	124	190	359	499
DYFED POWYS	28	29	28	48	55	72	135	80
GWENT	16	16	23	74	85	109	257	138
NORTH WALES	265	198	153	180	299	295	221	156
SOUTH WALES	218	253	161	165	223	283	222	485
TOTAL	11,574	11,848	13,218	13,137	14,355	14,515	15,425	16,564

Source: See Notes for tables

1. Revised figures for 2007-8 from West Midlands Police

Table 4: Number of incidents where conventional firearms were discharged

	Year							
	2001-2	*2002-3*	*2003-4*	*2004-5*	*2005-6*	*2006-7*	*2007-8*	*2008-9*
INCIDENTS [1]	11	10	4	5	9	3	7	4
% OF INCIDENTS COMPARED WITH NUMBER OF AUTHORISED OPERATIONS	0.079	0.067	0.024	0.031	0.048	0.017	0.033	0.020

Source: Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)

1. Does not include discharges for animal destruction or discharges during police training

Notes for tables:

Source: Home Office Public Order Unit, based on information aggregated from figures provided by individual police forces as part of the Home Office Annual Data Requirement. This was followed by a further quality assurance process involving the Home Office asking individual forces to verify and sign off their figures.

The information provided is a regular annual update of figures previously published (*Official Report*, 2 March 2009, Column 39WS), and on the Home Office website:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/operational-policing/police-firearms-use-2007-2008.html

Home Office guidance to forces for providing these figures is contained within the booklet "Annual Data Requirement, Police Personnel and Performance Data, Notes for Guidance". For the purpose of this statistical return AFOs are deemed to be deployed when "they are required to conduct a specific task during which their possession of a firearm (with appropriate authorisation) is a required element" (Chapter 3, paragraph 3.1 "ACPO Manual of Guidance on Police Use of Firearms").

In addition to the total number of operations, a further sub-category is required regarding those operations where the initial or sole response is by armed response vehicle (ARV).

Each incident will be classed as only one operation regardless of the number of personnel/deployments or tactics employed to deal with the incident.

Deployments also include those incidents where AFOs "self-authorise"

The number of officers authorised to use firearms as at 31 March 2009.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

New Education Strategy

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): I have deposited in the Library today my Department's new education strategy, entitled; "Learning For All: DFID's Education Strategy 2010-2015". The strategy has been placed in the Libraries of the Houses and an electronically accessible version is available on the DFID website at www.dfid.gov.uk/educationstrategy.

"Learning For All: DFID's Education Strategy 2010-2015" outlines how DFID will contribute to helping the world's children realise their full potential through access to a quality basic education for all.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society (Angela Eagle): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will be held on 8 March 2010 in Brussels. I shall represent the United Kingdom on all items.

The presidency will seek political agreement on a proposal for a Council directive which will implement a social partners' framework agreement to protect hospital and healthcare workers at risk of injury and infection from medical 'sharps' (including needle sticks, scalpels and suture equipment). Most of the requirements are already covered in the UK by a combination of existing health and safety legislation and healthcare specific legislation, codes of practice and guidelines: the UK will agree to the proposal.

The main agenda item will be a Commission presentation, followed by a policy debate on the Commission Communication on EU 2020 (which replaces the Lisbon strategy) published on 3 March. The UK response to the preceding Commission Consultation on EU 2020—'EU Compact for Jobs and Growth'—proposed creating new jobs and up-skilling or re-skilling the workforce as one of six priorities. I shall stress that the Employment and Social Policy Council must focus on active inclusion of those farthest from the labour market with ownership of the policy and responsibility for delivering results.

The presidency will seek adoption of the Joint Employment Report 2009-2010, and also the Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2010. These annual reports summarise evaluation of member states' progress and the EU's employment situation and also key lessons from member states under the open method of co-ordination for social protection and social inclusion. They also look ahead to further planned work. The UK is content.

The presidency will also seek adoption of Council conclusions on the eradication of violence against women, followed by an exchange of views. The UK Government have been working closely with European partners to support the work being progressed on tackling this issue at the European level and welcomes these conclusions.

There will also be an exchange of views, following a presentation by a delegation of Ministers for Research, on conclusions on European researchers' mobility and careers adopted by the Competitiveness Council (internal market, industry and research). This item reflects work being undertaken under the banner of the European research area, which is designed to advance the so-called "Fifth Freedom"—the free movement of knowledge across Europe. One of its elements is work on researcher careers and mobility, intended to make research an attractive career option across Europe and promote cross-border mobility of researchers. The Competitiveness Council agreed conclusions on careers and mobility on 1 and 2 March; these include sections on social security and pensions issues and the intention is that some of the research Ministers involved will present the conclusions to EPSCO to raise the profile of these issues.

There will also be presentations from the Commission on the latest report on equality between women and men, which the UK welcomes, and also information from the presidency on preparation of the Tripartite Social Summit due to take place before the spring European Council.

Under any other business, the Chairs of the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee will give an oral presentation on their 2010 work programmes. There will also be information on conferences held under the Spanish presidency to date.

Petition

Monday 22 February 2010

OBSERVATIONS

DEFENCE

Malta Cross/Africa Star

The Petition of the George Cross Island Association North West Branch and others,

Declares that a small Maltese Cross should be issued by the British Government to be worn with the Africa Star, for personnel involved with the defence of Malta, in recognition of the valiant efforts of our former servicemen and the people of Malta.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to issue a small Maltese Cross to be pinned to the Africa Star.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Joe Benton, Official Report,* 15 December 2009; Vol. 502, c. 934 .]

[P000638]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Defence, received 12 February 2010:

The Africa Star was awarded for a minimum one day service in an operational area of North Africa between 10 June 1940 and 12 May 1943. The whole of the area between the Suez Canal and the Strait of Gibraltar is included, together with Malta, Abyssinia, Kenya, Sudan, The Somalilands and Eritrea. The Africa Star was awarded to Royal Navy and Merchant Navy personnel anywhere at sea in the Mediterranean between 10 June 1940 and the 12 May 1943. Service in Merchant Navy vessels which took part in the landings on the coast of Morocco between 8 November 1942 and the 12 May 1943 also qualified.

It was, as is now, the responsibility of those in command at the time to determine when it was appropriate to request medals for campaign service and similarly to decide when it was felt that their continued issue for a particular campaign was no longer necessary. If the military chain of command agreed that some additional recognition for those who served in Malta between 1940 and 1943 was appropriate, or in fact the introduction of any medal, they would have to prepare a case to be considered by the cross-Government, non-political Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals (HD Committee). This committee considers all cases for new medals and all amendments to the eligibility criteria for existing medals and makes recommendations to the Queen. It is not the remit of Minister's to introduce or review criteria for introducing medals.

Since the end of the second world war the HD Committee has made it clear that it will not consider cases for any new medals, or amendments to the qualifying criteria for existing medals recognising service performed many years ago. The reason for this policy is that the present HD Committee cannot put itself in the place of the Committee which made the original decision and which would have been able to take account of the views of the Government and of other interested parties at the time of the decision.

In conclusion, the institution of the Africa Star was deemed entirely appropriate for the operations undertaken at that time. It is for these reasons that there are no plans to introduce any additional recognition in the form of a medal, clasp or rosette, for those veterans who served in Malta.

I hope this explains the Government's position on this matter.

Petitions

Tuesday 23 February 2010

OBSERVATIONS

HOME DEPARTMENT

Bristol Refugee Rights

The Petition of supporters of Bristol Refugee Rights and others,

Declares that Britain has an international obligation to provide sanctuary to people fleeing conflict or persecution; declares that three quarters of those seeking safety here are refused protection, but that many cannot go back to their home country; further declares that people in this situation are not allowed to work or claim benefits, and frequently become destitute rather than go back to countries where they would be in real danger; further declares that the Petitioners believe that such people deserve to be treated fairly, humanely and with dignity.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls on the Government to grant temporary protection to people who cannot return to their countries of origin; to end the threat and use of destitution as a tool of Government policy against refused asylum seekers; and to allow asylum seekers, including those whose application has been refused, the right to work if they have not been given a decision and/or they cannot leave the UK after six months.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Stephen Williams, Official Report,* 16 December 2009; Vol. 502, c. 1071.]

[P000655]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department, received on Monday 22 February 2010:

The United Kingdom has a long and proud tradition of providing protection to those who need it and considers all protection claims carefully, on their individual merits, and in accordance with our legal obligations. All asylum claims are considered on their individual merits in accordance with the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the European Convention on Human Rights, against the background of the latest accurate, objective, sourced and up-to-date information on asylum seekers' countries of origin produced by the UK Border Agency Country of Origin Information Service.

Asylum and human rights applicants that are found to be in need of protection are granted it. Those found not to be in need of protection have a right of appeal to the independent appellate authorities. In this way we ensure that we provide protection to those asylum seekers who need it. Where a decision has been made that a person does not require international protection, and there are no remaining rights of appeal or obstacles to their return, unsuccessful asylum seekers are expected to return voluntarily to their country of origin. Return and reintegration assistance is available through the International Organization for Migration.

The Government do not have a policy of destitution. The asylum support policy is properly balanced. No person who has sought protection need be destitute whilst they have a valid reason to be here. Asylum seekers who need support to avoid destitution are given it from the time they arrive in the UK until their claim is fully determined (appeal rights exhausted). Support takes the form of accommodation or subsistence or both.

When an asylum seeker has been found not to need protection it is the Government's policy to discontinue providing support. It is not considered right to ask the UK taxpayer to continue to fund those who choose to remain here when they have no grounds to stay and it is open to them to return to a home country that has been found safe for them to live in, nor is it considered right to allow individuals to take employment under such circumstances.

For this reason, the Government believe that support for failed asylum seekers should be restricted to those in narrow categories of increased vulnerability. These categories are families with dependent children under the age of 18 years who continue receiving support until they leave the UK; children and vulnerable adults qualifying for local authority care provision; and people who are temporarily prevented from leaving the UK through no fault of their own who are provided with accommodation and subsistence support if they would otherwise be destitute.

While the Government welcome the enormous contribution that the skills and knowledge of refugees make to our society and economy, it is important to maintain the distinction between economic migration and asylum. A change to the policy on employment would create a disincentive to departure for unsuccessful asylum seekers and act as a draw for those who want to come to the UK for economic reasons, compromising the integrity of the asylum system and slowing down the asylum application process for others. This is why asylum seekers are generally not allowed to work while their claim for asylum is under consideration, the only exception being asylum seekers who have been waiting 12 months for a decision where this delay cannot be attributed to them. Allowing asylum seekers to work in these circumstances is in accordance with the EC Directive on the reception of asylum seekers.

Our focus is therefore rightly on those the UK accepts are in need of international protection, and every effort is made to help refugees integrate into society. A crucial part of that integration is the recognition of the skills, knowledge and diversity that refugees bring to British life. The UK Border Agency document of March 2009 'Moving on Together: Government's Recommitment to Supporting Refugees' sets out the national strategy for the integration of refugees. This includes provision of critical support immediately after grant of refugee status—and in particular, identifying the skills of refugees at the earliest opportunity and providing the right support for getting a job.

The Government have introduced proposals for reform of asylum support under the draft Immigration Bill which was published on 12 November 2009 and public consultation on this matter is currently underway.

TRANSPORT

Pedestrian Crossings

The Petition of residents of Hove and Portslade and others,

Declares that the petitioners have serious concerns about the safety of pedestrians using the crossroads at the junction between Old Shoreham Road, Neville Road and Sackville Road; further declares that the Petitioners are concerned that there are no pedestrian crossings on the north or southbound carriageways at the junctions on Neville and Sackville roads, and believe that there is an urgent need for a safe and effective pedestrian crossing at this site.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge Ministers in the Department for Transport to take steps to ensure that a crossing is placed at this juncture to ensure the safety of pedestrians at this crossing.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Ms Celia Barlow, Official Report*, 9 February 2010; Vol. 505, c. 884.]

[P000732]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

Old Shoreham Road is a local road for which West Sussex county council has responsibility. The provision of pedestrian facilities on this and adjoining roads is for them to consider.

The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 confers on local highway authorities the power to establish crossings for pedestrians on roads in their area. The signing, road markings, etc that form these crossings are prescribed in the Zebra, Pelican and Puffin Pedestrian Crossings Regulations and General Directions 1997.

The Department for Transport has produced guidance to highway authorities regarding the assessment method to be used when considering the provision and type of pedestrian crossings. This is contained in Local Transport Note 1/95, "The Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings". The note recommends a framework method to encourage informed decisions as to whether a crossing is necessary and, if so, which type should be used. There is guidance on assessing such factors as difficulty of crossing, local representations and cost (including maintenance).

Petition

Wednesday 24 February 2010

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Gritting

The Petition of residents of the South Lakes and others,

Declares that better gritting is required in the South Lakes.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to put pressure on Cumbria County Council to develop an emergency plan to make sure that roads and pavements are cleared properly and people are not trapped in their homes during snowfall.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Tim Farron, Official Report,*9 February 2010; Vol. 505, c. 883 .]

[P000733]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

Provision of a winter service on the roads in the South Lakes district is a matter for Cumbria County Council. They have a duty, under section 41 of the Highways Act 1980, to maintain the highways in their charge: and this includes a specific requirement to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice.

The Department for Transport encourages local highways authorities to adopt the good practice set out in the UK Roads Liaison Group's code of practice for highways maintenance management, Well-maintained Highways (available from www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org). This includes a section on winter service, which has been recently updated to take account of the review which the UKRLG undertook in response to the severe weather of February 2009. The Code of Practice urges local highway authorities to produce, and formally approve and adopt, policies and priorities for winter service. These should be coherent with wider objectives for transport, integration, accessibility and network management, including strategies for public transport, walking and cycling, as well as the wider strategic objectives of the authority. Local government democratic processes provide opportunities for the public to make their views known to the Council.

The Government and the devolved Administrations, with the support of the Local Government Association, have taken action which aims to help authorities not to run out of salt, by providing advice to suppliers on priorities for deliveries. Local authorities, as well as the Highways Agency, have been asked to conserve supplies to deliver an overall target of a 40 to 50 per cent. reduction in salt use. These measures have been critical in retaining sufficient salt stock resilience, at a time when salt deliveries from domestic suppliers are only a proportion of the potential national usage.

Petition

Thursday 25 February 2010

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning and Development (Hampshire)

The Petition of the Bordon for Option 1 Group

Declares that the Whitehill/Bordon Opportunity Town Enlargement and/or Bordon Eco-Town Development expansion proposals are not appropriate to the character of this small country town. Because of the size of the proposed town enlargement it will have an excessive and undesirable impact on the surrounding areas. The Petitioners respectfully ask that the currently proposed over-development plan for Bordon be stopped. This small town and its surroundings contain characteristics and important heathland and other biodiversity rich habitats, which will be lost or substantially damaged, even if they are mitigated for, by these development proposals and options.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to limit the expansion of the town at Whitehill/Bordon to no more than 2000 houses and associated infrastructure: and to insist that the proposed town expansion should be situated only on the future brownfield sites that are currently barracks, which are to be vacated by the MOD in the town.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Official Report, 6 October 2008; Vol. 480, c. 1P .]*

[P000270]

Observations from Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government acknowledges the concerns of the petitioners regarding the eco-town proposals for Bordon.

Whitehill-Bordon was announced as one of the four successful sites in the first wave of eco-town announcements (16 July 2009) following two years of thorough assessment including public consultation and Sustainability Appraisal.

All of the four sites are led by, or strongly supported by, their local authorities who can see the potential for being a national green exemplar and for economic and housing growth to benefit their existing communities.

The original proposals for Whitehill-Bordon included provision for 5,000-8,000 homes, during the assessment process this has been amended to 5,500 homes. This is reflected in the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East (The South East Plan) which states "A separate allocation of 5,500 has been made for Whitehill-Bordon as the basis for further study including the implications for the Special Protection Area".

An announcement by the Housing Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey), on 8 February 2010 has pledged a further £11 million to Whitehill-Bordon to lay the green foundations for the proposed eco-town.

Petitions

Monday 1 March 2010

OBSERVATIONS

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Badman Report (Skipton and Ripon)

The Petition persons resident in Skipton and Ripon,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Graham Stuart, Official Report,* 8 December 2009; Vol. 502, c. 268 .]

[P000590]

Petitions in the same terms were presented by the right hon. Member for West Dorset (Mr. Letwin) [P000720]; the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Mr. Clegg) [P00724]; the hon. Member for Leominster (Bill Wiggin)[P00728]; and the hon. Member for Hexham (Mr. Atkinson) [P000735];

Petitions in the same terms were also presented from persons resident in the following constituencies: Solihull [P000710]; Richmond, Yorks [P000711]; and Bury St. Edmunds [P000727].

Observations from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families:

DCSF commissioned the Badman review of home education in January 2009 and the report was published on 11 June 2009. As part of the review, Graham Badman took written and oral evidence from a range of individuals and organisations who responded to his public call for evidence, including home educators and local authorities. Alongside this he also considered published literature, the current legal position and guidance and the approaches taken in other countries. He was assisted by an expert reference group. I am confident that his report draws from a wide and heterogeneous evidence base.

The Children, Schools and Families Select Committee also considered the Badman report and was supportive of most of the recommendations. It agreed that a short statement of educational approach would be helpful in establishing dialogue between home educating families and local authorities; that an annual meeting between local authorities and home educators was needed; and that better support for home educators and better training for local authorities would together lead to an improvement on the current arrangements.

Home Education registration and monitoring proposals are included in the Children, Schools and Families Bill which passed Third Reading in the House of Commons on 23 February 2010 and was introduced into the House of Lords on 24 February. The proposals will put in place light touch regulation and monitoring arrangements and our guidance will make it clear that this will be proportionate and focused on support and encouragement for home educating families. We have also committed around £21 million in the first year to additional support for home educating families, which has a focus on children with SEN and home educated children who would like to attend FE College courses.

Home education is an established part of the British education system and the vast majority of home educators who do a good-job will find monitoring supportive and—for the first time—backed by real resources. Our reforms will not require home educators to adopt a particular approach, to teach a specific curriculum, or for their children to take SATs tests or specific public examinations. After these reforms are implemented, England will remain one of the most liberal countries in the developed world for home educators to live in.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Incinerators (Tatton)

The Petition of Stop Incinerators in Disguise (S.I.D) in the constituency of Tatton in Cheshire,

Declares that they want to stop the building of an incinerator (Waste Treatment Plant) at New Cheshire Business Park in Wincham.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State responsible for local government to put pressure on the local authority to reject the plans to build an incinerator in the area.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. George Osborne, Official Report,* 10 February 2010; Vol. 505, c. 8P .]

[P000730]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware that a planning application has been submitted to Cheshire West and Chester council in respect of the above development. He is advised that the application was registered on 19 November 2009.

Cheshire West and Chester borough council are responsible for the day to day planning control in their area, and the Secretary of State cannot comment on the merits or otherwise of any application. The Government's policy is not to interfere with the jurisdiction of a local planning authority unless it is necessary to do so. This is because local authority councillors are elected to represent the views of local people and, in the main, it is these councillors who are in the best position to decide whether a development should go ahead. It is, of course, for local planning authorities to provide whatever justification it may be appropriate to give for their decisions and procedures.

In determining a planning application the local planning authority, who have full knowledge of the local circumstances, are required to have regard to all material considerations including the development plan, national policies and views expressed by third parties.

The Secretary of State might decide to call-in the application for his own determination if he considers that it raises matters of more than local importance, but his policy is to be very selective about this. As it is possible that this proposal may, at some future date, come within his jurisdiction, it would be inappropriate to comment on the issues raised in the petition.

Planning and Development (Essex)

The Petition of David Head, residents of Daws Heath, Hadleigh, Thundersley and others,

Declares that we object to the proposed housing estate planned for the green land bounded by Stadium Way, Rayleigh Road and Daws Heath Road; deplore that proper public consultation has not been undertaken; believe that our green belt is sacrosanct; it provides wildlife habitat, leisure opportunities, a green lung function and acts as a buffer between densely populated urban areas. The sheer size of the proposed development of up to 750 houses would be catastrophic and out of character with the area. Infrastructure, including roads, sewers, school places, dentists, youth facilities and much else are insufficient even without the additional houses. And we note that our neighbouring councillors, unlike Castle Point Councillors, have consulted their residents widely and have voted against green belt development; further note that the Government have stated green belt should not be built upon; therefore urge Castle Point Councillors to consult the public before they vote to destroy our environment and quality of life.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government first to change their policy on housing targets and secondly to urge Castle Point Borough Councillors to consult residents before voting on their plans and to reject building on the green belt in order to protect the quality of life of all residents.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report, 18 November 2008; Vol. 483, c. 207 .]*

[P000290]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware that Castle Point Borough Council has identified the site bounded by Stadium Way, Rayeligh Road and Daws Heath Road within the Local Plan for the potential for a housing development of up to 750 dwellings.

There is no current planning application in with Castle Point Borough Council for determination which would be primarily the responsibility of the Borough Council as local planning authority, and the Secretary of State cannot comment on the merits or otherwise of any application, or prospective application.

Decisions on planning applications are required to be in accordance with the adopted development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Government's statements of national planning policy, such as Planning Policy Statement 9, Biodiversity and Geological Conservation, are material considerations which must be taken into account, where relevant, in planning decisions, but it is the responsibility of the local planning authority to identify and weigh up all the different issues, in the context of the specific local circumstances, having regard to the views of local residents and other interested parties.

The Secretary of State may decide to call in an application for his own determination where he considers that it raises issues of more than local importance, but his policy is to be very selective about this. As it is possible that a proposal may, at some future date come within his jurisdiction, it would be inappropriate to comment on the matter raised in the petition.

Petitions

Tuesday 2 March 2010

OBSERVATIONS

HOME DEPARTMENT

Destitution Among Asylum Seekers

The Petition of Members of Churches Together in Roundhay,

Declares that we are deeply concerned about the high levels of destitution among asylum seekers, especially refused asylum seekers, and in particular that many people have been left in this dire situation for prolonged periods.

Research in Leeds in 2009, indicates that since the Report in 2007, the situation has deteriorated. It demonstrates that destitution happens at all stages of the asylum process, administrative delays worsen destitution, destitution is serious and prolonged, the number of people being made newly destitute is increasing even with the 'New Asylum Model'—it is not just a 'legacy' problem and entitlement to apply for support does not mean entitlement to receive support. Destitute people may be single or families with children; they are being forced into street homelessness and they have worsening health and mental health problems.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons to ensure its legislation is designed and implemented so as to end the destitution of asylum seekers at all stages of the asylum process. Furthermore that asylum seekers have the right to work at all stages of the asylum process so they can contribute to the United Kingdom and provide for themselves.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Fabian Hamilton, Official Report,* 3 February 2010; Vol. 411, c. 505.]

[P000723]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

The UK's asylum support policy is properly balanced and sufficient to meet essential living needs. No person who has sought our protection need be destitute while waiting for an application to be decided.

We have transformed the asylum system by streamlining the process and introducing end-to-end case management by a single case owner. The UK Border Agency provides support to asylum seekers from the time they arrive in the UK until their claim is finally determined if they would otherwise be destitute. As part of this process we have systems in place to measure the eligibility of the asylum seeker's rights to access support at all stages of the asylum process. This includes an assessment of destitution and a consideration of their rights under the European convention of human rights.

Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are entitled to accommodation or subsistence or both until their claim is fully determined. Extra money is provided to those who are pregnant or have children under the age of three.

If the asylum seeker's application is successful they will have full access to public funds on a no less favourable basis than UK citizens. However, when it has been determined that an asylum seeker does not need international protection it is the Government's policy to discontinue providing support. The Government do not consider that it is right to continue to fund those who choose to remain here when they have no grounds to stay and it is open to them to return to a home country that has been found safe for them to live in.

There are sufficient safeguards for a number of categories of vulnerable failed asylum seekers including families with dependent children under the age of 18 years who continue receiving support until they leave the UK; children and vulnerable adults qualifying for local authority care provision; and those who are temporarily prevented from leaving the UK, who are provided with accommodation and non-cash subsistence. In addition, there is provision to support failed asylum seekers for a time-limited period while they make arrangements to leave the UK.

All asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers who apply for support, but are refused, are entitled to appeal this decision to the independent Tribunal. The Government do not propose to alter this position.

With regard to the termination of support: failed asylum seekers in receipt of section 4 support will continue to be supported until the barrier to leaving the UK, which entitles them to section 4 support, is removed or resolved, providing there is no change in their circumstances which would affect their eligibility. All cases will be regularly reviewed to determine if they remain eligible for section 4 support. The asylum support consultation proposes to remove the right of appeal against the cessation of support that is provided in order to allow individuals to make arrangements to return home. This support is provided on an expressly time-limited basis. We have not proposed to remove the right of appeal when support is terminated in any other circumstances.

The Government are committed to partnership working to reduce destitution and homelessness in the migrant community. The UK Border Agency continues to support the No Recourse to Public Funds Network (NRPF) based at Islington. The network is developing a national operating structure and IT system to enable local authorities to prevent fraud and share good practice when meeting the needs of NRPF migrants receiving local authority support. This network is also being designed to share critical data with the UK Border Agency enabling far more effective joint working with local authorities; the aim to resolve these claimants circumstances locally, at source.

In addition, the UK Border Agency is working with the network to more effectively tailor the assisted voluntary returns (AVR) scheme to meet the needs of local authority clients.

The Government welcome the enormous contribution that the skills and knowledge of genuine refugees make to our society and economy, but permitting asylum seekers or failed asylum seekers to work is not in line with Government policy. It is important to maintain the distinction between economic migration and asylum

Giving asylum seekers or failed asylum seekers permission to work would be likely to encourage asylum applications from those without a well-founded fear of persecution, hence slowing down the processing of applications made by genuine refugees and undermining the integrity of the managed migration system. The only exception is asylum seekers who have been waiting 12 months for a decision where this delay cannot be attributed to them. Allowing asylum seekers to work in these circumstances is in accordance with the EC directive on the reception of asylum seekers.

It is important that those who apply for asylum in the UK have their applications processed as quickly as possible. In 2008 the UK Border Agency began meeting its target to conclude 60 per cent. of new asylum claims within six months and are working to meet even more challenging targets. Those who are recognised as refugees will therefore increasingly be able to work here legally much sooner than in the past, enabling them to make a contribution to the UK.

Immigration (Adela Mahoro Mugabo)

The Petition of the Mahoro Must Stay Campaign,

Declares that Adela Mahoro Mugabo, who is to be removed to Rwanda, is the widow of a man murdered in 2002 by the Interharamwe Hutus, and as a Hutu herself was accused by the Rwandan Military Intelligence of covering up for her husband's murderers. The Petitioners further declare that Mahoro was tortured and raped, and is now HIV-positive, and that if she is returned to Rwanda she will still be in danger and will be unable to get the anti-retroviral drugs she needs to survive.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Home Secretary to instruct a reconsideration of the Home Office decision and allow Adela Mahoro Mugabo to stay in the UK, a safe environment in which she will be able to lead a healthy life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. John Leech, Official Report,* 9 December 2009; Vol. 502, c. 468.]

[P000493]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

The Government are committed to providing safety to those individuals found to be genuinely in need of protection. The Government would not seek to enforce returns to Rwanda unless they were satisfied it was safe to do so. In the absence of compelling evidence to suggest that a particular unsuccessful asylum seeker is at risk of persecution on return, the Government believe that the UK Border Agency are justified in maintaining their policy of enforcing the return of unsuccessful asylum seekers.

The Home Office Country of Origin information Service closely monitors the human rights situation in all the countries that generate asylum seekers to the United Kingdom including Rwanda. It provides accurate, objective, sourced and up to date information on asylum seekers' countries of origin, for use by UK Border Agency officials involved in the asylum determination process. In dealing with applications from Rwanda caseworkers have access to detailed Country of Origin Information Reports which are published biannually on the top 20 asylum intake countries. These reports focus on the main issues raised in asylum and human rights applications to the UK. They are compiled from a wide range of reliable external information sources including international organisations such as UNHCR and non-governmental organisations, such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International and the media.

The UK Border Agency has confirmed that a decision has been made on Ms Mugabo's case. The UK Border Agency would like to assure the petitioners that the Country of Origin reports for Rwanda and Ms Mugabo's circumstances, along with their petition, were taken into account when a decision was made. Ms Mugabo will be notified of the outcome of her case shortly.

Petition

Thursday 4 March 2010

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Badman Report (North Devon)

The Petition of Persons resident in the North Devon Parliamentary Constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000748]

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 22 February 2010

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

16. **Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest assessment is of progress in military operations in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [317455]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We continue to work with the Afghan national security forces and ISAF partners to bring security to the Afghan people. The increasing ability of Afghan security forces has been shown recently in their effective planning, leadership and execution of Operation Moshtarak, which is successfully extending the authority and influence of the Afghan Government in central Helmand Province.

19. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of the role of UK armed forces in the overall military strategy in Afghanistan. [317458]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Macclesfield.

20. **Mr. Russell Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the timetable is for transition of lead security responsibility to the Afghan government for *(a)* each district and *(b)* the nation as a whole. [317459]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Afghan Government wants the Afghan national security forces (ANSF) to take the lead and conduct the majority of operations within three years, and to take responsibility for physical security within five years. At the London conference, the international community agreed to support this goal by continuing to improve the capability and effectiveness of the ANSF.

We hope that a number of provinces will transition to ANSF lead by late 2010 or early 2011, with ISAF moving to a supporting role. However, the rate of transition will depend upon conditions on the ground, and the judgment of military commanders and the Afghan Government.

RAF Church Fenton

18. **Mr. Grogan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his plans are for the future of RAF Church Fenton and its parent base RAF Linton-on-Ouse; and if he will make a statement. [317457]

Bill Rammell: RAF Church Fenton and its parent base RAF Linton-on-Ouse currently provide UK military flying training. The future roles of these stations are under review as part of the UK military flying training system programme which will deliver the future flying training needs of the armed forces. No decisions have been taken yet on the involvement of individual sites that are under review as part of the programme.

Personnel: Mental Illnesses

Mr. Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements his Department has put in place to help military service personnel with mental illnesses linked to combat experience. [317454]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Defence Medical Services deploy uniformed mental health staff on major operations to provide assessment and care to personnel in theatre. In the UK, community-based mental health care is available at 15 MOD-run regional departments of community mental health (plus centres overseas), while in-patient care, when necessary, is provided in specialist NHS mental health facilities.

Defence Storage and Distribution Agency

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency no longer has agency status. [317460]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Defence Storage and Distribution Agency (DSDA) still has agency status. The operational efficiency programme made a number of recommendations which allow removal of agency status from DSDA and my Department is therefore currently consulting with the trade unions on its removal. Once this is complete, I will make a final decision which will be announced to Parliament in the usual manner.

Accommodation: Repairs

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was charged to occupants of (1) Modern Housing Solutions accommodation for repair of damage caused by them to the accommodation in each of the last 12 months; [317328]

(2) family accommodation owned by Amec Turner for repair of damage caused by them to the accommodation in each of the last five years. [317329]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Modern Housing Solutions and Turner Estates Solutions are the prime contractors for the repair and maintenance of service family accommodation (SFA) in Great Britain. Neither company own any SFA properties.

However, charges for "barrack damage" are raised in cases where occupants vacate SFA below the required move-out standard, and are to cover the costs of remedial works required. The MOD manages over 20,000 moves in and out of SFA in the UK each year. Charges are not raised for normal wear and tear and any charges for the replacement of lifed items such as carpets will take into account the remaining life of the item. Housing officers visit every SFA property prior to move-out in order to advise occupants what work may be required to clean properties to the required standard, and to allow occupants to raise any concerns they may have. Figures are only available for the UK as a whole. For data prior to 2009, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2124W. The following table shows data that are available for 2009.

	Amount charged (£)
January	137,245
February	85,946
March	54,124
April	64,942
May	69,87[illegible]
June	114,772
July	99,756
August	64,903
September	111,748
October	102,023
November	85,139
December	54,006

Afghanistan and Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel have served in *(a)* Afghanistan since 2001 and *(b)* Operation Telic from 2003-09. [314562]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the numbers of personnel endorsed for Afghanistan since 2001 and Operation Telic since 2003.

	Iraq	*Afghanistan*
2001	0	4,300 (Op Veritas—includes personnel that supported operations in Afghanistan but were not based in the country)
2002	0	2,100 (early 2002) 3,500 (spring 2002) 300 (summer 2002)
2003	46,000 (March) 18,000 (end May)	300 (in ISAF) plus 100 (at Mazar-e-Sharif)
2004	8,600 (end May)	500 (in ISAF) (April 2004) 900 (in ISAF and Harrier GR7 deployment) (late 2004)
2005	8,500 (end November)	1,000
2006	7,200 (end May)	5,400 (summer 2006) 6,200 (autumn 2006) 6,300 (late autumn 2006)
2007	5,500 (end September)	6,300 (April) 7,800 (late 2007)
2008	4,100	8,100 (June)
2009	4,100 (end May) 150 (November)[1]	9,000 (April) 9,500 (October)

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[1] This includes the UK's contribution to the NATO Training Mission—Iraq.

The data included in this response have been rounded. The Afghanistan figures represent the endorsed troop levels at the given time.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security threat posed by the Taliban in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region. [309737]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 11 January 2010]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State for the Armed Forces (Bill Rammell) to the hon. Member for Reigate (Mr. Blunt) on 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 740W.

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many troops were stationed in Afghanistan in each year between 2006 and 2009. [316276]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the number of personnel endorsed for Afghanistan between 2006 and 2009.

Afghanistan

		Number
2006	Summer	5,400
	Autumn	6,200
	Late autumn	6,300
2007	April	6,300
	Late 2007	7,800
2008	June	8,100
2009	April	9,000
	October	9,500

The Afghanistan figures represent the endorsed troop levels at the given time.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the effect was on the operation of the Afghan air bridge of recent severe weather conditions in the UK. [316921]

Bill Rammell: Delivery of the strategic airbridge was challenging but successful during the period of severe weather in January 2010. Some aircraft were diverted from RAF Brize Norton or pre-positioned at East Midlands airport.

In spite of the closure of RAF Brize Norton from late on 5 January 2010 until 8 January 2010, the utilisation of additional resources and the inherent flexibility in airbridge passenger tasking ensured that outbound passengers were re-allocated to the next available aircraft departing from either Brize Norton or East Midlands airport. The airbridge continued through the period of severe weather with minimal overall disruption.

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to monitor the effectiveness of the changes to the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme announced on 10 February 2010. [318023]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Government are committed to implementing all of the recommendations put forward by Lord Boyce in his Review of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. A report on progress will be made in 12 months time to the Central Advisory Committee on Pensions and Compensation, a statutory advisory body, whose members include representatives of Service and ex-service organisations as well as military personnel. As recommended in the Report this same body will monitor progress on implementation of the Review's recommendations and will also be the route through which any further reviews of aspects of the Scheme which might be required are conducted.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what means lifetime earnings lost by reservists as a result of injuries sustained in service be *(a)* calculated and *(b)* accounted for in the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme following implementation of the changes to the Scheme announced on 10 February 2010. [318024]

Mr. Kevan Jones: A Reservist's Guaranteed Income Payment is calculated, in the same way as a Regular's, using age and salary at time of discharge and reflecting the severity of the injury. The salary for Reservists is calculated using a military salary of equivalent rank as a Regular plus any Reservist pay supplements that an individual earns to compensate those whose gross civilian salary is higher than their gross Service pay. In line with the Review Recommendations the Guaranteed Income Payment calculation will be amended to reflect, for the most seriously injured, the average number of promotions they are no longer able to receive. This will apply to Reservists and Regulars alike.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the compensation review for people injured since April 2005 announced on 10 February 2010 to be completed. [318028]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Government have accepted all of the recommendations put forward by Lord Boyce in his Review of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and these will be implemented as quickly as possible. Some of the changes will be completed by the summer, while those which require more time to translate into detailed legislation are expected to be complete in about 12 months' time.

Armed Forces: Absent Voting

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on arrangements to ensure that service personnel on active duty can vote at the next general election. [317446]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I am working closely with the Minister of State at the Ministry of Justice, the right hon. Member for North Swindon (Mr. Wills), and the Electoral Commission regarding this important matter. The Ministry of Justice have set up a working party of officials and representatives of service families to look at long-term solutions. We are committed to ensuring, where we can, that all service personnel and their families who are eligible are registered to vote and can do so.

The proxy vote system is available to everybody and this is the most reliable means of voting for those for whom operational demands or their location would make the completion and return of postal votes difficult. None the less, we are striving to ensure that our service men and women, particularly those in Afghanistan are registered and able to vote in the forthcoming election.

Armed Forces: Aviation

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* flights and *(b)* passengers have been delayed at (i) Brize Norton, (ii) Kandahar and (iii) Akrotiri for more than (A) 24, (B) 48 and (C) 72 hours in the last six months; what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Afghan Air Bridge; and if he will make a statement. [313928]

Bill Rammell: Data are not recorded in the format requested as any flight that does not depart within 24 hours is replaced by a standby reserve flight and consequently the original tasking is no longer required. The required number of weekly airbridge trips has always been achieved in the time period.

There have been 14 occasions (9 per cent. of flights) since 1 July 2009 when a scheduled TriStar from Brize Norton has needed to be replaced by a reserve flight, and passengers have had to wait until at least the next day to travel. This also impacts on the return flight from Kandahar. A fallback flight has run on 19 occasions in the same period to account both for these cancelled flights and for the differing capacity between KC1 TriStars that carry 115 passengers, and C2 TriStars that can carry 190, which are normally scheduled. As a result, there have been a further five occasions when passengers will have had to wait until at least the next day to travel.

As with any aircraft, there are occasions when for technical reasons or bad weather flights are delayed; there are also operational reasons, such as casualty evacuation, when priorities may be changed causing delay to other passengers either on departure for Kandahar or returning to the UK. However, these delays have not compromised the overall performance of the Afghan Air Bridge, which is kept under constant review.

Armed Forces: Derbyshire

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has taken to provide assistance to soldiers normally resident in Derbyshire following active service in Afghanistan and Iraq. [317697]

Mr. Kevan Jones: My Department has taken many steps in recent years to improve the support available to all service personnel on their return from operations. These include improvements to medical support, welfare and financial packages.

The hon. Member will be aware of the Defence Secretary's recent statement on 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 926, to the House regarding improvements to the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. He will also be aware of my recent announcement on the Army Recovery Capability, which is an integrated and coherent programme to help injured and sick personnel return to work or prepare for civilian life.

In terms of mental health, we continue to have a package of measures to assist with the early intervention of mental health problems. These include the use of Trauma Risk Management (TRiM), which is a model of peer group mentoring and support. We also provide out-patient and in extreme cases in-patient care to ensure any mental health needs are managed as early as possible.

There are no specific programmes of assistance for service personnel from Derbyshire, but a coherent package for all Service Leavers and Veterans regardless of location.

Armed Forces: Discharges

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers subject to manning control are *(a)* awaiting discharge and *(b)* have been discharged since 2007. [316937]

Bill Rammell: No soldiers have been discharged under Manning Control Points since 2002, and no soldiers are awaiting discharge.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers have been subject to discharge after failing a compulsory drugs test in each of the last two years; and what the class of drug was in each such case. [316938]

Bill Rammell: The Army does not tolerate drug abuse within its ranks, as it is incompatible with military service and reduces operational effectiveness.

Positive results in the Army Compulsory Drug Testing over the last three years average around 0.8 per cent, which is much less than in similar civilian work place drug testing programmes in the UK.

The number of soldiers the British Army discharged after failing compulsory drugs tests, in each of the last two calendar years is as follows:

	Number
2008	580
2009	[1]508

[1] As at 30 November 2009

Information on the class of drug in each case of discharge is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, I can provide a breakdown of the types of drugs that have been detected by compulsory drug testing, by year for the British Army for the requested period:

Ser	*Drug Type*	*2008*	*2009*
1	Heroin	1	1
2	Cocaine	427	231
3	Ecstasy	32	4
4	Cannabis	171	165
5	Amphetamine	4	8
6	Benzodiazepine	15	9
7	Ketamine	1	11
8	Total	651	429

The figures for 2009 are as at 30 November 2009.

It should be noted that soldiers are not necessarily discharged in the year in which they fail a compulsory drugs test. It can take up to five months to process a discharge if the soldier wishes to challenge the decision. A soldier might also return multiple positive tests in one period. This may account for the apparent disparity between the totals of discharges and drugs detected.

Armed Forces: Expenses

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by members of the armed forces with a rank of Brigadier or equivalent and above in each of the last 12 months. [316374]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following table provides information on expenditure reimbursed through the Joint Personnel Administration expenses system for those officers holding the rank of Brigadier and equivalent and above.

2009	£
January	67,392.31
February	81,780.41
March	114,559.39
April	76,809.24
May	120,100.37
June	100,542.10
July	97,569.42
August	51,536.52
September	77,002.27
October	96,296.42
November	104,682.84
December	75,724.20
Total	1,064,095.49

The figures provided reflect the month in which payment has been made. Although all claims for reimbursement will be made as soon as practical after the activity, it is possible that some claims will be listed against the month following an activity or even later.

The majority of reimbursed expenses relate to subsistence allowance and motor mileage allowance. In order to reduce expenditure greater use is being made of video and telephone conferencing. When travel is necessary, all personnel are strongly encouraged to maximise the value of their time away by incorporating several meetings, thus avoiding the need to travel to the same location on separate occasions. If travelling by road, all practical measures are to be taken to allow the sharing of transport. Furthermore, when arranging meetings, due consideration is to be made to holding the meeting at a time that will allow attendees to return to their home units and avoid the need to stay overnight.

Armed Forces: Foreigners

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 52W, on armed forces: recruitment, how many members of the armed forces there are from each other Commonwealth country. [316925]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of personnel joining the UK armed forces from Commonwealth countries is given in the following table. There is a discontinuity between the statistics for 2006-07 and other years presented in the table due to the introduction of the Joint Personnel Administration System and direct comparisons should not be made.

Nationality	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Total non-UK Commonwealth	680	1,220	1,460
Australian	[1]—	10	10
Bahamian	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Bangladeshi	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Barbadian	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Belizean	[1]—	[1]—	30
Bermudan	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Botswanan	[1]—	10	20
Cameroonian	10	20	20
Canadian	10	[1]—	[1]—
Fijian	20	230	170
Seychellois	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Sri Lankan	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Dominican	10	10	[1]—
Gambian	30	80	80
Ghanaian	160	220	180
Grenadian	10	20	90
Guyanese	[1]—	[1]—	10
Indian	10	40	30
Jamaican	20	30	40
Kenyan	30	40	60
Lesotho	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Malawian	20	60	60
Malaysian	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Maltese	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Mauritian	10	20	10
Namibian	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
New Zealander	[1]—	10	10
Nigerian	20	60	50
Pakistani	[1]—	[1]—	10
St. Lucian	20	20	60
Sierra Leonean	[1]—	10	10
Singaporean	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
South African	170	160	170
Swazi	10	[1]—	[1]—
Tanzanian	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Tongan	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Trinidadian	10	10	20
Ugandan	20	20	20
Vincentian	10	40	190
Zambian	10	10	20
Zimbabwean	60	50	60

[1] Denotes zero or rounded to zero.

Notes:

1. Figures for 2006-07 exclude RAF data as the nationality of those joining the RAF can be identified only after 2006-07 with the introduction of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) System.
2. Army figures for 2006-07 are for an 11 month period between 1 April 2006 and 28 February 2007. Due to the introduction of JPA, Army intake by nationality is unavailable for March 2007.
3. The data provided are provisional and subject to review due to ongoing validation of data from the JPA system.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many armed forces personnel Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre Headley Court is able to accommodate at any one time; [316997]

(2) how many armed forces personnel undergoing a course of rehabilitation at Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court are accommodated outside Headley Court; [316998]

(3) how many armed forces personnel are awaiting appointments at Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court. [316999]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The facilities at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) at Headley Court currently include 66 ward beds and 120 other beds that are available for patients who do not require full ward facilities.

We keep the numbers of beds required at DMRC under regular review. I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement on 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 52WS, which states that we are working on plans to provide up to 30 extra ward beds later this year.

No individuals undergoing a course of residential rehabilitation at Headley Court are housed elsewhere. As part of its services, DMRC also provides a range of out-patient treatment. Personnel attending for a routine out-patient appointment may be offered overnight accommodation in a local hotel if they are unable to travel to and from the unit in a day.

Armed forces personnel requiring residential care or rehabilitation at DMRC are transferred there in accordance with their clinical need at a given date. No patients are awaiting admission because of any shortage in the availability of ward beds. Some personnel undertaking long-term rehabilitation programmes will spend periods of time at home with their families between concentrated periods of treatment at Headley Court. This practice is in accordance with recognised clinical procedures; our experience suggests that patients can often recover better and faster in this way rather than through continuing accommodation in the rehabilitation unit.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* longest, *(b)* shortest and *(c)* average period of time taken was to make repairs to forces accommodation after a call out in the last period for which figures are available. [310247]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 552W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

Additional information is currently being collated and verified. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Willie Rennie:

In my answers of 13 January (Official Report, column 995W) I undertook to write to you with details of the number of calls made to the Department's accommodation helplines and details of the longest, shortest and average periods of time taken to carry-out repairs to Service accommodation.

The repair and maintenance of Service accommodation worldwide is carried out under many different arrangements, managed by different areas of the Department. Given this fact, the requested details for Single Living Accommodation worldwide and Service Family Accommodation (SFA) overseas are not held centrally and can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Repairs to SFA properties in the UK are carried out under the Housing Prime Contract (HPC) in England and Wales, the Regional Prime Contract (RPC) in Scotland and separate arrangements exist in Northern Ireland (NI). In all cases, occupants can report faults and request repairs via a freephone helpdesk.

The HPC is being delivered by Modern Housing Solutions (MHS), which is responsible for maintaining some 45,000 properties. The MHS helpdesk received some 393,656 calls in 2009, of which some 226,889 resulted in work orders being raised. Although the total number of calls regarding SFA in Scotland and NI is not available, the RPC raised 15,424 work orders for Scottish SFA in 2009 and 11,148 were raised for NI SFA.

The longest, shortest and average times taken to carry out repairs on UK SFA in 2009 are as follows:

		Repair time (in days)		
		Emergency repair	*Urgent repair*	*Routine repair*
England and Wales SFA (HPC)	Longest	12	22	39
	Shortest	Less than 1	Less than 1	Less than 1
	Average	Less than 1	4	8.5
Scotland SFA (RPC)	Longest	1	23	59
	Shortest	Less than 1	1	1
	Average	Less than 1	4	11
Northern Ireland SFA	Longest	3	43	60
	Shortest	Less than 1	Less than 1	Less than 1
	Average	1	6	10.7

The MOD contracts set the response time for attending emergency repairs as three hours, repairs to remedy or make safe are to be completed within 24 hours and subsequent rectifications in line with urgent and routine timescales. Urgent jobs would include a partial loss of essential facilities such as heating or hot water, and are to be attended within seven working days. All other jobs are classed as routine, and are to be attended within 20 working days.

From the way the data are held, it is not possible to identify the specific reasons why the longest repairs took the time they did to complete. In general, repairs can take longer based on a number of factors, including the complexity of the work, whether accommodation is occupied or the availability of parts and materials that are required to finalise repairs. In many cases the fault is made good at the first visit, but additional work is required to complete the repair.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 654W, on housing, how much his Department spent on those properties in 2008-09. [317117]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It is not possible to separately identify maintenance and other housing costs for individual service family accommodation properties.

Contribution in lieu of council tax is paid on these properties; however the individual cost per property cannot be readily identified.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received on standards of service accommodation for service personnel and their families. [317449]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have recently received representations from the three armed forces family federations regarding the standards of service accommodation. I will be replying to them shortly, addressing the issues they raise.

In addition, as the House is aware, I regularly respond to questions and correspondence from hon. Members and the public regarding the standard of accommodation.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* service family and *(b)* single living properties designated as empty were subsequently removed from his Department's housing stock in Scotland in each of the last five years. [317785]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Those service family accommodation (SFA) properties in Scotland that are declared surplus to requirements will be held empty prior to being sold on the open market. To date, the following numbers of properties were sold in each of the last five financial years:

Financial year	*Number of SFA sold*
2005-06	238
2006-07	242
2007-08	107
2008-09	407
2009-10	[1]34

[1] To date.

Single Living Accommodation (SLA) is normally located within the wire of a defence establishment and therefore can be sold only as part of a wider disposal. Although details are held of Scottish establishments sold in the last five years, the amount of SLA included could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 810W, on armed forces: housing, who rented each of the 17 properties listed in the last 12 months. [317887]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In accordance with data protection principles and for security reasons, the Department does not disclose the details of service families living in service accommodation.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many people have been recruited to the Royal Regiment of Scotland in each year since 2007; [317056]

(2) how many Commonwealth citizens have been recruited to the Royal Regiment of Scotland in each year since 2007. [317057]

Bill Rammell: Figures for entrants to the Regular Battalions of Royal Regiment of Scotland (RRS) as a whole are as follows:

	Soldiers	Of which: Commonwealth citizens	Officers
2007-08	220	18	19
2008-09	177	31	13
2009-10	305	58	—

These figures reflect the numbers who have passed out of training into the RRS. They therefore exclude those who have rejoined the regiment and those who have transferred into it from other regiments.

No Commonwealth citizens have passed into the RRS as officers during this period.

Armed Forces: Prisons

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times the Prison-in-Reach working group referred to on the service personnel and veterans website has met in the last 12 months. [317634]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Veterans Prison-in-Reach working group meets on a quarterly basis. During the course of 2009, the Group met four times:

19 March
18 June
24 September
3 December.

The Group will next meet on 11 March 2010.

Armed Forces: Reorganisation

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to integrate the activities of the three services. [317692]

Bill Rammell: The recent Defence Green Paper recognised that joint operations have become the norm and the benefits arising from our ability to co-ordinate our activities across land, sea and air. The Green Paper suggested that the future Strategic Defence Review would look at how the joint approach could be taken further.

Armed Forces: Salt

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has a policy on stockpiling of salt and grit by the armed forces for adverse winter weather. [316892]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There is no specific policy on stockpiling of salt and grit by the armed forces for adverse winter weather.

Armed Forces: Cadets

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on assistance to cadet forces in maintained schools in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* the latest year for which figures are available. [316311]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is not held in the format requested. A recent study, however, estimated the overall annual public contribution to the cadet forces to be in the region of £140 million.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce the winner of the contract to supply the further elements of the new electronic systems for the Warrior armoured vehicle upgrade programme. [316922]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The competition for Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme (WCSP), which includes an upgrade to the Warrior's electronic architecture, is ongoing. I intend to make an announcement shortly on the outcome of this competition once the assessment is complete and the investment decision approved.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce his plans for the future of the Future Rapid Effects System contract. [316923]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Future Rapid Effect System programme has been recast from a single programme into a set of constituent projects, namely: the Specialist Vehicles; the Utility Vehicles; and the Manoeuvre Support Vehicles. The competition for the Specialist Vehicle project is ongoing and I intend to make an announcement on the outcome of this competition shortly, once the assessment is complete and the investment decision approved.

Baha Mousa Inquiry

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the monetary value is of awards of legal aid made in respect of the Baha Mousa inquiry; and whether an estimate has been made of the total value of such awards made during the course of that inquiry. [317370]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No awards of legal aid have been made to witnesses to the Baha Mousa Inquiry. However, all witnesses to the Inquiry are provided with free independent legal advice funded by the Ministry of Defence (MOD). The MOD has so far paid £3.7 million in legal costs for witnesses to the Inquiry. Future costs are uncertain and will depend on the number of witnesses the Inquiry decides to call before it concludes.

Batteries

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on *(a)* rechargeable and *(b)* single use batteries in the latest period for which figures are available. [316720]

Mr. Quentin Davies: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Blandford Camp

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of Blandford Camp; and if he will make a statement. [317350]

Bill Rammell: It is currently anticipated that all communications training that currently takes place at Blandford Camp will move to RAF St. Athan as part of the implementation of the Defence Training Review by the end of 2015. We are pursuing alternative defence uses for Blandford Camp, but it is still too early to say what these might be.

Blaydon

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Blaydon constituency, the effects on Blaydon of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [315303]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence delivers security for the equal benefit of all the people of the UK, and the Overseas Territories, by defending them, including against terrorism; and acting as a force for good in the world by strengthening international peace and stability. Our continuing main effort of success in Afghanistan, preventing al-Qaeda from having a secure base from which to threaten us directly, keeps our country safe from the threat of terrorism.

The Service Personnel Command Paper set out the Nation's Commitment to our Armed Forces, their families and veterans. This is a cross-Government initiative that is making real differences to the lives of our service personnel, veterans and their families and we are fully committed to upholding its key principles. The first annual report on the Service Personnel Command Paper was published on 19 November 2009. This report captured the progress made against the commitments of the Command Paper within the first year following its launch. It can be found at the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/Showcase/ProvidingForOurPeople.htm

The report sets out the substantial progress that has been made including:

compensation for most serious injuries doubled;

free further education for service leavers;

retention of places on NHS waiting lists;

Local Connection legislation amended in England and Wales, with a similar exercise currently being worked on in Scotland, to give service leavers credit for having lived and worked in an area when applying for social housing; and

from April 2009, ex-service men and women who are seriously injured were given priority for specially adapted social homes.

Defence Statistics are not available at constituency level, but regional statistics on service personnel numbers and defence employment can be found on the Defence Analytical Service and Advice website. Location of military personnel can be found in Tri Service Publication 10 at the following link:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=67&pubType=0&thiscontent=100&date=2010-01-28

Regional defence employment can be found in Tables 1.11, 1.11a and 1.11b in UK Defence Statistics 2009 at the following link:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/modintranet/UKDS/UKDS2009/c1/table1.11b.html

Additionally, although not defence-related, the Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at the following link:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

Chemical Weapons: Animals

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 811-12W, on chemical weapons: animals, what quantities of each *(a)* chemical and *(b)* biological warfare agent are held in the UK; when such agents were manufactured; and what quantity of each agent is permitted to be held under the (i) Chemical Weapons Convention and (ii) Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention. [317542]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The UK is a State Party to both the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC). In accordance with these conventions, the UK maintains small quantities of chemical and biological warfare agents for research purposes, that are not prohibited under the conventions, to ensure that UK forces are adequately protected in the event that chemical or biological weapons are used against them.

The CWC categorises chemical warfare agents under Schedule 1 chemicals. Under the CWC the UK is permitted to hold a maximum aggregate quantity of one tonne of Schedule 1 chemicals. There are no set limits on quantities of individual chemicals within this overall amount. The MOD holds some Schedule 1 chemicals within the one tonne limit. The Schedule 1 chemicals held by MOD are between approximately 10 and 40 years old, although on occasion small quantities (typically a few grammes) of Schedule 1 chemicals that are not normally held have been manufactured. These holdings are inspected by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (the OPCW), the international body set up to implement the CWC, to ensure compliance with the convention.

The BTWC does not stipulate specific agents that are prohibited, nor does it specify quantities of agents that are permitted to be held. It permits the possession of biological agents and toxins of types and in quantities consistent with prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes, recognising that such agents exist in nature and are used for legitimate purposes, including the development of protective materials and medical countermeasures to biological agents and toxins.

Defence Equipment

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* military equipment and *(b)* sensitive personal data were lost by his Department in the last 12 months. [317330]

Bill Rammell: The value of equipment lost or stolen, along with a range of other types of losses, is published in the summary of losses and special payments in the MOD's Annual Report and Accounts. Copies are available in the Library of the House and online at the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/

An explanation is provided for all losses which exceed £250,000. Loss information for equipments below £250,000 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

There has been one incident involving the loss of sensitive personal data in the past 12 months.

Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the monthly occupancy rate for *(a)* ward and *(b)* other beds has been at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court since January 2003. [318022]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Since May 2007, the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court, has had a total of 66 ward beds for the care of complex trauma and neurological in-patients. The majority of such patients are accommodated in these ward beds but some who have an appropriate level of function can alternatively be accommodated in 15 bed spaces in a separate building on site which are suitable for their clinical needs. These beds are part of a total of 120 hostel beds for patients whose condition (trauma or less serious musculoskeletal problem) allows them to be independent of nursing.

Occupancy rates for ward beds and other beds from 2008 are as follows:

	Ward beds		*Other beds*	
–	*Average patient numbers*	*Percentage occupancy*	*Average patient numbers*	*Percentage occupancy*
2008			—	—
January	24	36	—	—
February	39	59	—	—
March	43	65	—	—
April	43	65	—	—
May	43	65	—	—
June	42	64	—	—
July	34	52	—	—
August	35	53	—	—
September	38	58	98	82
October	38	58	120	100
November	36	55	109	91
December	25	38	23	19
2009				
January	27	41	86	72
February	37	56	75	63
March	40	61	104	87
April	42	64	120	100
May	43	65	68	57
June	42	64	120	100
July	43	65	104	87
August	42	64	80	67
September	50	76	92	77
October	57	86	84	70
November	56	85	101	84
December	55	83	18	15
2010				
January	61	92	82	68

Data prior to January 2008 for ward beds, and prior to August 2008 for other beds, are not centrally held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Non-ward bed occupancy is deliberately managed to achieve high percentages in order to speed the rehabilitation of less seriously injured personnel by maximising the size of groups undertaking rehabilitation together.

While the statistics also indicate that ward bed occupancy has risen markedly in recent months, accommodation has been made available in ward beds for all operational casualties as and when they required it. Given this rise in patient numbers, we have a range of contingency plans, which include greater use of the 15 non-ward bed spaces mentioned, for those patients whose clinical condition allows, and greater use of our regional rehabilitation units for the treatment of less seriously injured personnel who might otherwise be accommodated at Headley Court. In addition, as I announced to the House on 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 926-36, we are now planning to create up to 30 more ward beds at Headley Court later this year.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many follow-up visits former in-patients at DMRC Headley Court had on average in 2009. [318029]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2009, 722 patients attended out-patient appointments following either an in-patient stay or residential rehabilitation course at DMRC Headley Court. On average these patients had two follow-up visits during 2009, amounting to 1,683 out-patient appointments following their in-patient stay or residential rehabilitation course.

Defence Medical Services: Private Sector

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on employing private contractors in defence medical services in each of the last five years. [314176]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The vast majority of health care for service personnel is provided by the Defence Medical Services or the NHS. However, there will be times when it is necessary to employ private medical contractors, such as when a particular specialism is not readily available, or when it would be impractical to provide the service overseas using internal resources. For example, aspects of health care for personnel posted overseas to Germany and other smaller bases and detachments.

In practice, such private sector health provision is funded by a number of individual budgets across the MOD, including at local unit level within the single services. This information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

However, we have a breakdown of costs from the MOD centre budget and British Forces Germany which indicates the sums involved for the health services they have contracted. This information is provided in the following tables.

MOD centre budget

Financial year	*Expenditure (£)*
2005-06	5,802,167
2006-07	4,892,840
2007-08	6,561,094
2008-09	7,830,192
2009-10 (to end January 2010)	3,744,016

These figures include specialist services where appropriate NHS provision is not available, including prosthetics and neurological services, and civilian locums for operational deployments. Prior to 2009-10, they included contract costs for the provision of in-patient mental health provision; this service is now provided through contract with NHS providers.

British Forces Germany

Financial year	*Expenditure (£)*
2005-06	43,790,000
2006-07	43,720,000
2007-08	45,450,000
2008-09	51,283,000
2009-10 (to April 2009)	39,016,000

These figures include secondary health care contracts with German hospitals; non-contracted extra-contractual costs for specialist care; primary care contract costs with SSAFA Forces Help and Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (i.e. not all private contractor provided); non-contracted primary care costs; and costs related to Isolated Detachments in European Theatre.

Departmental Energy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated *(a)* amount and *(b)* cost was of energy used in his Department and its agencies in each year since 1997; what proportion of the energy used was generated from renewable sources in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [317235]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD total energy consumption, spend and proportion of energy used generated from renewable sources is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Consumption (kWh)—weather corrected*	*Cost (£ million)*	*Percentage generated from renewables*
2008-09	5,994,113,743	345	10
2007-08	6,222,357,786	307	8
2006-07	6,313,429,656	319	9
2005-06	6,440,586,442	291	6
2004-05	7,587,922,256	241	6
2003-04	6,796,490,248	220	[1]—
2002-03	6,645,837,501	223	[1]—
2001-02	6,784,279,754	234	[1]—
2000-01	5,403,345,255	240	[1]—
1999-2000	2,439,054,321	231	[1]—

[1] Data not held

Data on energy consumption prior to 1999-2000 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Similarly data on the amount of energy generated from renewable sources prior to 2004-05 are not held.

Departmental Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary accommodation for civil servants in each of the last 12 months. [314198]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I will write to the hon. Member when I have obtained the information, and will place a copy in the Library of the House.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much the Director General Land Warfare has spent on entertainment in each of the last 12 months; [316901]

(2) how much the Director General Land Warfare spent on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* accommodation, *(c)* hotels and *(d)* air fares in each of the last 12 months. [316966]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave him on 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 968-70W, on Departmental Visits Abroad, Armed Forces: Housing and Armed Forces: Official Cars.

Director General Land Warfare has responsibility for staff located in several overseas locations where the British Army regularly conduct training exercises, including Canada, Kenya, and Brunei. A certain amount of overseas travel is therefore an essential part of the job. When travelling overseas, the Director General Land Warfare stays in local service facilities rather than hotels whenever possible.

Director General Land Warfare has claimed the following expenses in the last 12 months:

	Entertainment	*Flights*	*Accommodation/hotels*	*Car hire*
February 2009	0	8,260	0	0
March 2009	40	0	0	0
April 2009	0	430	0	0

	Entertainment	*Flights*	*Accommodation/hotels*	*Car hire*
May 2009	0	4,960	0	460
June 2009	290	2,130	330	0
July 2009	50	0	0	0
August 2009	0	310	0	0
September 2009	320	300	0	0
October 2009	0	2,210	0	0
November 2009	0	30	0	0
December 2009	0	100	0	0
January 2010	0	0	0	0
Total	700	18,730	330	460

All claims submitted by Director General Land Warfare in the last 12 months have been in accordance with relevant MOD policy, rules and guidance.

Departmental Property

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was received by his Department from sales of property in Scotland in 2009. [317058]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The value of receipts from sales of property in Scotland for the last auditable period of 2008-09 was £24.84 million. The list of potential sales for the period 2009-10 is held in the House of Commons Library. This covers all property sales in the period including Service accommodation.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date his predecessor was first informed of the determination by HM Treasury in autumn 2003 that his Department had exceeded its budget in the previous 15 months in respect of the flexibility permitted by resource account budgeting; what estimate was made of the size of that overspend; what discussions he had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on that matter; and if he will make a statement. [316087]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Following the 2002 spending review, a technical issue arose regarding flexibility between the MOD's core cash and non-cash expenditure plans.

HM Treasury and MOD officials identified the issue in the preparation of Main Estimates for 2003-04. My predecessor was first informed in April 2003. Discussions between MOD and HM Treasury officials and Ministers led to agreement on a way ahead in late 2003.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 813W, on departmental training, what the cost was of each media and communications training session. [317536]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The training sessions were conducted by Ministry of Defence personnel based at the Defence Media and Operations Centre. The only additional cost to the Department was their travel costs into London which were approximately £30 per session.

European Defence Agency

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 25 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 153W, on European Defence Agency, with which Capability Development Plan programmes the UK is involved, what the monetary value of each such programme is; and what the nature is of the UK's involvement. [316926]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 28 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1017W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox)

Ex-servicemen

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the Royal British Legion on support services for former service personnel. [314223]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I meet regularly with representatives of the Royal British Legion. Most recently, these meetings have concentrated on, among other things, Royal British Legion's involvement as a member of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme Review's Independent Scrutiny Group; the launch of the Army Recovery Capability; and the launch of the Welfare Pathway initiative.

This demonstrates that the Royal British Legion remains a key partner in the Government's work to ensure that former service personnel receive the services, benefits and respect they deserve. I would like to pay tribute to all the work they do in support of the armed services family.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what support his Department provides to military personnel upon discharge with regard to *(a)* employment needs, *(b)* housing needs and *(c)* financial planning advice; and if he will make a statement. [317790]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The National Audit Office report "Leaving The Services" of 2007 acknowledged the success of the resettlement programme which found that 94 per cent. of those seeking work who used the career transition partnership resettlement services were in paid employment within six months of leaving the armed forces. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Defence recognises that making the transition from the armed forces into civilian life can be daunting.

Individual employment needs are identified from a mandatory interview with a trained service resettlement adviser who is able to signpost to a number of organisations and services ranging from the 'flexible new deal' programme available at Jobcentre Plus through to workshops and training delivered through the career transition partnership, a partnering arrangement with a leading specialist outplacement company. Furthermore, lifetime job finding support is available through the Officers' Association or the Regular Forces Employment Association.

For housing, all service personnel can attend presentations delivered by the Joint Service Housing Advice Office throughout the country and overseas. The "Options for Housing" presentation includes financial advice for housing options and accessing the Key Worker Living Scheme, entitlement to which has been extended for a year after discharge, in line with our Service Personnel Command Paper (7424) commitment. We have also removed the local connection criteria that treated service personnel unfairly when accessing social housing. For single personnel, SPACES (Single Persons Accommodation Centre for the Ex-Services) aims to assist single service leavers with securing accommodation. Our latest project "The Beacon" in Catterick complements Mike Jackson House in Aldershot and the Galleries in Richmond, which help us to reduce the potential of a single person leaving the armed forces becoming homeless.

Financial planning advice is provided through the Financial Aspects of Resettlement Briefing by the Forces Pension Society. This advises all service leavers throughout the country and overseas on matters ranging from the Armed Forces Pension Schemes through to debt counselling. The recent review of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme recommended that for those who receive compensation, there needs to be better guidance and/or access to independent financial advice to allow for informed decisions. The Government have accepted all recommendations in full.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the 1999 protocol between the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff and the Director General of the Prison Service on the identification of former service personnel in prison to link them with their former regiment upon release is still in force; and if he will make a statement. [317794]

Mr. Kevan Jones: We continue to work closely with the Ministry of Justice and the third sector to raise awareness of veterans in prison to the help and support available to them and to their families, while they serve their sentence and as they prepare for release. The Veterans In Custody Support Service, for example, is designed so that prison staff can quickly identify veterans in prison and refer them to the various support organisations available to assist them, including the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency. The agency's website, "Veterans: UK", provides additional links to further organisations, including regimental associations. Through this service, veterans are encouraged and assisted in seeking the necessary support to help address their needs.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there is a minimum length of time that must be served by military personnel to qualify for entitlement to support services provided by his Department upon discharge. [317791]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There is no minimum length of time that must be served by military personnel to qualify for entitlement to some form of support services provided by the Ministry of Defence upon discharge. In order to reflect the differing needs of service personnel, the longer that is served the greater the amount of time that is allocated to enable resettlement activity. The level of support needed and given for those that have served for a relatively short period of time, and who therefore have more recent experience of life outside the armed forces, is less than someone who has spent their working life in service. However, all service personnel are entitled to receive lifetime job finding support through either the Officers' Association or the Regular Forces Employment Association.

Any personnel medically discharged are entitled a full resettlement package.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the budget for support services offered by his Department to military personnel upon discharge has been in each of the last 10 years. [317792]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is not held in the format requested. Only those costs relating to the contract held between the MOD and Right Management Ltd., a specialist outplacement company, are held centrally. The following table provides information on the amount expended, which reflects the number of service leavers taking advantage of the resettlement opportunities available.

Financial year	*Total contract payments (£ million)*
2000-01	6.0
2001-02	6.3
2002-03	6.3
2003-04	6.5
2004-05	7.1
2005-06	8.3
2006-07	8.9
2007-08	8.4
2008-09	8.2

Other costs attributable to resettlement, such as the staffing costs for the Resettlement Information Service or the travel and subsistence for the service leaver, is not held centrally and could be provided only from a search of manual records at disproportionate cost.

Ex-servicemen: Prisoners

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on the number of armed forces veterans in prison in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [316845]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Information on the number of veterans in prison in Scotland is not held.

On 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 6-7WS, my hon. Friend the Minister for the National Offender Management Service and I announced the results of the joint work by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Justice to determine the number of veterans in prison in England and Wales. The Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) organisation within the MOD have estimated that almost 3 per cent. of the prison population in England and Wales are veterans.

We are currently investigating the feasibility of conducting a similar exercise with the Scottish Prison Service to determine the number of veterans in prison in Scotland.

Falkland Islands

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the total expenditure under the defence budget of the military presence in the Falkland Islands since 1982; and what estimate he has made of such expenditure in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [317591]

Bill Rammell: The costs from 1982-83 to 2008-09 (outturn figures) for the Falkland Island are as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
1982-83	780
1983-84	637 (391)
1984-85	644 (403)
1985-86	572 (396)
1986-87	402 (236)
1987-88	229 (118)
1988-89	102 (59)
1989-90	68 (60)
1990-91	66
1991-92	72
1992-93	58
1993-94	67
1994-95	66
1995-96	70
1996-97	81
1997-98	76
1998-99	72
1999-2000	71
2000-01	143
2001-02	115
2002-03	120
2003-04	1[illegible]1
2004-05	113
2005-06	143
2006-07	65
2007-08	67
2008-09	70

From 1983-84 to 1989-90 you will note two figures are available. The higher figure includes garrison costs, the cost of replacing capital equipment lost and residual campaign costs associated with the Falkland conflict. The lower figure reflects just garrison costs.

There is some variation between years caused by what categories of expenditure were included. For example, in recent years figures do not include military equipment, military personnel pay, service children education facilities, estate works and maintenance, IT and communication, maritime visits or air charter. Costs associated with these activities are met by other top level budget holders. The MOD's core budget is separated into eight top level budget holders (TLBs), each responsible for delivering individual military objectives. Within these TLBs the budget is not routinely allocated in terms of regions, but in terms of categories of expenditure. To provide the level of detailed breakdown of these categories in relation to the Falkland Islands would be of disproportionate cost.

The reason for the lower figures since 2006-07 is due to a change in MOD accounting policy, whereby reporting fixed asset depreciation costs and the cost of capital on fixed assets are recorded elsewhere.

The estimated costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are £70 million and £69 million respectively.

Helicopters

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the end of service dates are of the helicopters in the Sea King fleet. [317782]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member for Moray to the statement made by the Secretary of State for Defence on 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 99-100WS.

HMS Gannet

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many search and rescue missions were flown from HMS Gannet in each of the last five years. [317779]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is provided in the following table:

HMS Gannet Search and Rescue

Calendar year	*SAR callouts*	*Persons assisted*
2005	267	226
2006	269	303
2007	359	286
2008	382	347
2009	447	378

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* civilian and *(b)* service staff have been employed at HMS Gannet, Royal Navy Unit Prestwick in each of the last five years. [317780]

Bill Rammell: The civilian and service staff employed at HMS Gannet, Royal Navy Unit Prestwick, in each of the last five years is as follows:

Manning levels at HMS Gannet

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Royal Navy aircrew	20	20	20	20	21	21
Royal Navy support	92	63	17	13	8	5
Contractor engineering support	0	0	40	42	42	45
Civil service	11	10	8	8	8	8
Support staff	18	20	20	17	16	15
MGS/MDP	21	21	21	20	10	9
Totals	162	134	134	120	105	103

The figures reflect: the award of the Sea King Integrated Operational Support contract in 2007, which replaced the Royal Navy Maintenance personnel with civilian contractors; and the reduction in the Military Guard Service/Ministry of Defence Police following the closure of the Greensite (accommodation and administrative site) which came under the jurisdiction of the Prestwick Airfield authority during 2008.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maintenance costs were of HMS Gannet, Royal Navy Unit Prestwick in each of the last five years. [317781]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Planned and reactive maintenance costs for HMS Gannet for each of the last five years are shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Maintenance cost (£)*
2005-06	72,351
2006-07	72,092
2007-08	69,804
2008-09	61,634
2009-10	[1]43,724

[1] To date.

Projects outside the scope of this response include changes to operational requirements, condition improvements, and lifecycle replacements.

The reduction in maintenance costs per year is due to the reactive maintenance element of the service provided. By its very nature reactive maintenance is unpredictable in its volume, scope and cost and is dependent on many operational usage factors.

Improvised Explosive Devices: Afghanistan

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of improvised explosive devices identified by the armed forces in Afghanistan in each quarter of each of the last three years. [317965]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether any *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information in electronic format sought from his Department by the Iraq Inquiry have not been disclosed owing to the Government's obligations to foreign governments or international bodies; and if he will make a statement; [310177]

(2) how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information held in electronic format at each level of security classification the Iraq Inquiry has requested from his Department; and if he will make a statement; [310178]

(3) how many and what proportion of *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information held in electronic format at each level of security classification requested by the Iraq Inquiry have been provided to it by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [310179]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Cabinet Office (Angela E. Smith) on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 840-41W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information in electronic format provided by his Department to the Iraq Inquiry that Inquiry has sought to publish under the procedure set out in the protocol on documents and other written and electronic information; and if he will make a statement. [314547]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 894W.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will reply to the e-mail from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 10 November 2009, on citation. [317249]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The hon. Member's e-mail was not sent to the correct address. It has now been resent and a response will be provided shortly.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to answer question 312672, on the crash of Nimrod XV230, tabled on 19 January 2010. [317506]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I replied to the hon. Member on 11 February 2010.

Met Office

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the definition of the Met Office's Public Task has been amended to take account of the reference to it in the most recent edition of the Cabinet Office Asset Portfolio; and if he will make a statement. [317583]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The definition of the Met Office's Public Task has not been amended. The December 2009 Cabinet Office Operational Efficiency Programme: Asset Portfolio document reflects Met Office's public task.

Met Office: Standards

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the accuracy of the forecasts provided by the Met Office in the last 12 months. [316872]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Met Office's short-range forecasting accuracy is one of its four key performance targets which is regularly monitored by the Met Office Board on behalf of the Minister. The targets are agreed annually and are laid in Parliament. Met Office report against their performance in their annual report which is also laid before Parliament.

As a World Meteorological Organization (WMO) designated centre for seasonal/long-range forecasts, Met Office is required to carry out assessments of its forecasting accuracy using procedures laid down by WMO. The most recent assessment was carried out in September 2009.

Military Exercises

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of his Department's planned military training exercises were cancelled before they took place in each of the last five years. [314177]

Bill Rammell: Success in Afghanistan is our main effort, and will remain our principal commitment for as long as it takes. Our approach at this time must be and is Afghanistan first. All exercises that better prepare our forces for operations in Afghanistan will continue but those that are considered not to directly support our effort, have limited training value to support our effort, or where the planned objectives for that exercises can be achieved elsewhere have been cancelled.

The proportion of MOD exercises cancelled in the last five full financial years is in the following table

	Scheduled training events	*Cancelled events*	*Percentage*	*Conducted*
2008-09	542	80	14.7	462
2007-08	722	76	10.5	646
2006-07	680	64	9.4	616
2005-06	533	58	10.8	475
2004-05	379	79	20.8	300

Missile Defence Centre

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department has incurred on the Missile Defence Centre since it opened. [318010]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Since its launch in July 2003 until the end of financial year 2008-09, the Ministry of Defence has spent some £35.7 million on missile defence research managed by the UK Missile Defence Centre. A further £4.6 million is forecast for the current financial year.

Navy: Middle East

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what tasks *(a)* HMS Pembroke and *(b)* HMS Lancaster are currently deployed in the Middle East. [317326]

Bill Rammell: HMS Pembroke is assisting with ensuring free movement of ships to Iraq and the region as part of Operation Telic. At the invitation of other nations, she may also take part in multinational exercises with regional naval forces.

HMS Lancaster is tasked under Operation Calash to carry out counter-terrorism and counter-piracy operations in order to improve the stability of the region.

Nimrod Aircraft

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral statement of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 967-69, on the Nimrod review, whether he has taken steps to apportion *(a)* responsibility and *(b)* liability to (i) BAE Systems and (ii) QinetiQ in respect of the crash of Nimrod XV230 in September 2006. [312672]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Yes. We set up the Nimrod Review in order, among other things, to assess where responsibility lay for the crash of Nimrod XV230. BAE Systems and QinetiQ were therefore put on notice in December 2007 that MOD might bring them into the compensation claims brought against MOD by the bereaved families. That position has been confirmed since the publication of Mr. Haddon-Cave's report and discussions with the companies' lawyers will commence shortly.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on the Government's position at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in May 2010. [317451]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have regular exchanges on nuclear matters with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and my other Cabinet colleagues.

We continue to work with partners from across the international community to seek a mandate for concrete, realistic and balanced action to strengthen the NPT's three mutually reinforcing pillars: non-proliferation, disarmament, and the peaceful use of nuclear energy, as well as addressing the threats to nuclear security.

Officers

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Major-Generals and *(b)* Brigadiers there are posted in the South of England. [316936]

Bill Rammell: As at 1 October 2009, a total of 120 Brigadiers and 30 Major-Generals were stationed in the South of England. These figures include those temporarily deployed on operations away from their home station.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Major-Generals and *(b)* Brigadiers there are in the army; and what the establishment is for each such rank. [316903]

Bill Rammell: As at 1 December 2009, there were 41 Major-Generals against an establishment of 44, and 174 Brigadiers against an establishment of 174.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Major-Generals and *(b)* Brigadiers in the army are on gardening leave. [316904]

Bill Rammell: There are currently no Major-Generals or Brigadiers in the Army on gardening leave.

Officers: Pay

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the salary is of a Major-General. [316902]

Bill Rammell: The base pay of a Major-General ranges between £101,537 and £114,729, depending on performance. This is augmented by an X-Factor of £2,336. The X-Factor is a percentage increase to basic pay which reflects the difference between the conditions of service experienced by members of the armed forces and conditions in civilian life, which cannot directly be taken into account by the job evaluation process.

The salaries for Major-Generals and above, and their equivalents in the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, are determined by the Senior Salaries Review Body.

Public Holidays

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the introduction of an additional public holiday; and if he will make a statement. [315121]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have made no estimate of the cost of an additional public holiday. Salary costs are fixed and would be unchanged. Military pay already takes account of the need to work unsocial and additional on-call hours as required, and elements of our Armed Forces already undertake duties on certain public holidays. While it might be necessary for some civilians in key roles to work on the public holiday, we would seek to minimise the cost to the Department by encouraging them to take time off in lieu, as is the MOD's current working practice. Similarly, we plan activities in advance to minimise disruption.

There would be some compensating savings, for example from reduced consumption of utilities, such as electricity, at MOD premises.

RAF Croughton

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what dates US *(a)* military personnel, *(b)* civilians and *(c)* contractors moved from RAF Fairford to RAF Croughton. [317981]

Bill Rammell: No US personnel or contractors have moved from RAF Fairford to RAF Croughton.

RAF Lyneham

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the construction cost was of the *(a)* new HQ building, *(b)* C130J simulator building, *(c)* new HQ for (i) 24 and (ii) 30 Squadron, *(d)* new gymnasium, *(e)* new pitch roof on the barrack blocks, *(f)* new sergeant's mess annexe, *(g)* new HQ for 47 Air Despatch Regiment and *(h)* extension to the security fence on the south side of the main entrance; and what further infrastructure improvements are planned to take place at RAF Lyneham. [310129]

Bill Rammell: In line with guidance from the National Audit Office, financial records are not retained for longer than six years and the information requested is therefore not available prior to 2004. Most of the construction projects referred to in the question were completed before this date and are no longer considered as new. The fitness suite was completed in 2004 and cost £784,000. The extension of the security fence was completed in 2009 and cost £18,000. These have been minimal expenditure on infrastructure since collocation at RAF Brize Norton was announced in 2003.

RAF Menwith Hill

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what dates members of the Intelligence and Security Committee have visited Menwith Hill since 2000; and which members of the committee participated in each such visit. [317979]

Bill Rammell: The Intelligence and Security Committee does not comment on its work programme. Where appropriate it publishes information on visits it has undertaken in its annual reports.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the Missile Defence System operations at RAF Menwith Hill in the next two years. [317980]

Bill Rammell: There are no plans to change the existing missile defence arrangements at RAF Menwith Hill.

Rescue Services: Scotland

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the monetary value is of the contract agreed with the Soteria Consortium for the provision of search and rescue services in Scotland. [317788]

Mr. Quentin Davies: While Soteria have been chosen as the preferred bidder for the search and rescue helicopter (SAR-H) project, the contract has yet to be signed. The finalised value of the contract to provide the search and rescue helicopter capability for the whole of the UK is likely to be in the region of £6 billion over the 25-year life of the service. It is not possible to break down the value of the contract by region.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of the privatisation of search and rescue operations on local economies in Scotland. [317789]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The future SAR helicopter service in Scotland is expected to be provided from four locations (Stornoway, Sumburgh, RAF Lossiemouth and Glasgow airport, which is taking over from RNAS Prestwick). With the introduction of new, modern, more reliable helicopters there is likely to be a reduction in personnel at the two locations where they take over from the MOD Sea Kings (RAF Lossiemouth and RNAS Prestwick). The details will be finalised as the contract is agreed. As such, there is likely to be a negligible impact on the economy of Scotland as a whole from the contractorisation of the future service.

Reserve Forces

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the *(a)* Royal Auxiliary Air Force, *(b)* Territorial Army and *(c)* Royal Naval Reserve are based in Scotland. [316516]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As at 5 February 2010, there are 224 Royal Naval Reservists, 141 Royal Marines Reservists, 2,506 in the Territorial Army and 252 personnel in the Royal Auxiliary Air Force based in Scotland.

Royal Navy Unit Prestwick

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated monetary value is of the property comprising Royal Navy Unit Prestwick; how much is planned to be spent on its redevelopment; and if there are plans to sell this facility. [317786]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD has a long-term commercial lease to 2019 with the Prestwick Airport Authorities for the HMS Gannet Air Station. The existing assets on the site are appropriately maintained but, as we do not own the site itself, there are no plans for redevelopment.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of jobs that will be lost as the result of the transfer of search and rescue operations from the Royal Navy Unit Prestwick to Glasgow; and what plans there are for the transfer of existing staff. [317787]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It is not anticipated that the decision to move future search and rescue operations from HMS Gannet at Prestwick to Glasgow airport will result in any job losses. Appropriate civilian personnel will be offered the opportunity to work with the successful contractor under the rules of Trade Union Protection of Employment (TUPE).

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many employees there have been in the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency in each month since its creation; and what expenditure his Department has incurred on the Agency in each year since it was established. [318030]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Veterans Agency (VA) merged with the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency in April 2007 to become the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA).

These figures and further related information can be found in the SPVA Annual Report and Accounts, copies of which are held in the Library of the House.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many calls have been received by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency Veterans-UK Helpline in the month since that service was started; [317639]

(2) what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the Veterans-UK Helpline. [317644]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Veterans-UK Helpline has been in place for a number of years and answered 249,739 calls in financial year 2008-09 and has answered 176,898 calls for April 2009 to January 2010.

Benchmarking exercises in August 2007 and August 2008, conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers, assessed the effectiveness of the Veterans-UK Helpline and compared it against internal and external call centres. In these assessments, the Veterans-UK Helpline compared favourably, being placed in the top quartile for overall performance.

Regular customer surveys also are conducted. In the 2008 survey 99 per cent. of customers rated the overall service provided as very satisfactory or satisfactory. Recommendations made in surveys are implemented where practicable.

In addition ongoing management checks are conducted to assess call handling and management.

As part of the Welfare Pathway I launched an additional National Point of Contact on 4 November 2009. This provides members of the Armed Forces, their families and Veterans with a single number to access support from a number of established service helplines and the Veterans-UK helpline on 08000 22 33 66.

In March 2011 an evaluation of the Welfare Pathway initiative will include the National Point of Contact.

Stabilisation Unit

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations the Military Stabilisation and Support Group has at the Permanent Joint Headquarters. [317518]

Bill Rammell: The Military Stabilisation and Support Group (MSSG) is a tri-service unit that forms part of 8 Force Engineer Brigade. While there is no MSSG 'representation' in PJHQ, the military stabilisation and support function, also known as Civil-Military Co-operation, or CIMIC, is well represented. PJHQ has a CIMIC-trained officer, and its deployable Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) has a specialist officer responsible for engineering and CIMIC issues. Within the MSSG itself, there is a small Operations and Planning team of three staff officers ready to deploy with JFHQ at one week's notice.

Stabilisation Unit: Haiti

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to use members of the Military Stabilisation and Support Team to assist in humanitarian efforts in Haiti. [317517]

Bill Rammell: There are currently no plans to deploy a Military Stabilisation Support Team from the Military Stabilisation and Support Group (MSSG) to Haiti. The Department for International Development has the lead role in the UK's response to the Haitian earthquake, and does not currently require any military assistance beyond that already in Haiti or en route in RFA Largs Bay, following a reconnaissance by Permanent Joint Headquarters staff. The Ministry of Defence continues to take an active role in the UK response, and will provide further assistance where possible if required.

Veterans' World

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* circulation was of the publication Veterans World in the latest period for which figures are available. [317640]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Approximately 18,000 hard copies of the January 2010 edition of Veterans World were distributed at a cost of approximately £10,000. The publication is produced three times a year and is sent to ex-service organisations, mental health care workers, resettlement offices, homeless shelters, disability employment advisers, citizens advice bureau and the HM Prison Service. Audio copies of the publication are available and it can also be accessed via the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency website.

The aim of the publication is to raise awareness of the help, advice and support available to ex-service personnel and their families. For example, in the latest issue—No 15 it included articles on the launch of the Armed Forces Community Pathway, St. Dunstan's plans for a new centre in Wales, changes to the Veterans Welfare Service and initiatives for helping Veterans in Prison.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects to receive the final report of the Saville Inquiry. [318065]

Mr. Woodward: Lord Saville has indicated that he intends to deliver his report to Government in the week commencing 22 March 2010.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many freedom of information requests were submitted to the Northern Ireland Office in each of the last two years. [318066]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows the number of requests received by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) in the last two years.

	Number of requests received
2008	183
2009	254

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has committed to publishing quarterly updates in relation to departmental performance under FOI, including information on both the volume and outcome of requests. The bulletins up to the 2009 third quarter can be found on the MOJ website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformation quarterly.htm

and in the Libraries of both Houses. MOJ will be publishing information from the 2009 fourth quarter in spring 2010.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many performance reviews were undertaken in respect of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; in how many cases performance was rated as unsatisfactory or below; how many staff left as a direct result of such a rating; and what percentage of full-time equivalent staff this represented. [313826]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) operates a rigorous performance review policy that applies to all staff. The policy dictates that all NIO staff are subject to annual performance reviews and procedures are in place to deal with inefficiency/poor performance.

Full electronic records are not held to allow for an exact figure to be given in relation to the number of performance reviews actually carried out. It is, however, estimated that the overall figure in relation to the NIO and its agencies would be approximately 2,000 in each of the last five years.

The number of cases within the NIO and its agencies where annual performance was rated as unsatisfactory in each of the last five years is detailed in the following table.

	Number
2004-05	[1]—
2005-06	6
2006-07	[1]—
2007-08	[1]—
2008-09	6

[1] Suppressed. Information not released on grounds of confidentiality.

No staff have been dismissed in the last five years as a direct result of an unsatisfactory annual performance review.

Offences against Children

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland were convicted in connection with an offence of a sexual nature that involved a child under 15 in each of the last three years. [318064]

Paul Goggins: The information is not available in the format requested. Northern Ireland conviction data do not include victim information, such as age, in relation to the commission of an offence. It is possible, therefore, only to give the number of convictions for those sexual offences which by their definition refer to a child or children. The one exception to this is the offence 'unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14 years'—which confirms that the victim was under 15.

Convictions for these offences are documented in the following table. Data cover the calendar years 2004 to 2006 (the latest year for which figures are available) and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence for which an offender is convicted is included.

Number of convictions for sexual offences involving children by offence 2004-06

Offence	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Gross indecency with child	3	6	5
Buggery with a boy under 16 years	6	1	3
Buggery with a girl	1	0	0
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14 years	4	3	3
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17 years	2	4	5

Number of convictions for sexual offences involving children by offence 2004-06

Offence	2004	2005	2006
Permitting girl under 17 years to use premises for intercourse	0	1	0
Indecent assault on female child	3	18	2
Indecent assault on male child	4	5	0
Meeting a child following sexual grooming	0	0	2
Distributing indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	1	1	1
Possessing indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	1	2	0
Possession of indecent/pseudo photographs of children with a view to distribution	1	0	0
Taking indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	8	1	0
Copying indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	2	0	0
Making indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	7	10	15
Total	43	52	36

Prisoners: Internet

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether prisoners in Northern Ireland have regular access to the internet. [316844]

Paul Goggins: Managed internet access arrangements that allow controlled access to approved sites are available to prisoners in Northern Ireland. Supervised access to approved sites is an essential part of education provision, in particular for prisoners who are studying Open University, ICT or Essential Skills courses.

Reoffenders

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of prisoners released from prisons in Northern Ireland who re-offended within two years. [316842]

Paul Goggins: The most recent estimate of prisoners released from prison in Northern Ireland who are reconvicted within two years was published by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) within 'Research and Statistical Bulletin 8/2008—Reconviction in Northern Ireland: Results from the 2005 Cohort'. During 2005, 892 people were released from immediate custody and, of these, 444 were reconvicted of a subsequent offence within two years of being released. This equates to a two-year reconviction rate of 49.8 per cent.

The bulletin can be downloaded from the following link:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/publications.htm

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

House of Commons: Buildings

Kate Hoey: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission when the carpets in the Chamber and the division lobbies were last replaced; by what means carpets removed were disposed of; and whether the House of Commons Commission has made a recent estimate of the cost of replacing those carpets. [316939]

Nick Harvey: The carpets in the Commons Chamber and Division Lobbies were last replaced in 1[illegible]95; there is no record of the disposal method. The cost of replacing the carpets now is some £62,000, including fitting and VAT. The old carpet will be recycled into biofuel.

Members: Allowances

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission under what budgetary headings the House of Commons Commission has incurred expenditure in relation to *(a)* the review of the Additional Cost Allowance and *(b)* Sir Paul Kennedy's review. [316965]

Nick Harvey: The budgetary headings under which expenditure has been incurred for the Additional Cost Allowance review are: work commissioned, staff costs and office supplies. The budgetary headings in relation to Sir Paul Kennedy's work are: work commissioned, travel and office supplies.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent assessment she has made of the economic effects of the London 2012 Olympics on *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Essex. [314889]

Tessa Jowell: The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games have established the Nations and Regions Group with representatives from each of the nations and English regions to maximise the economic, as well as the sporting and cultural, benefits of the 2012 Games.

To date, 84 businesses registered in the East of England have won contracts directly with the Olympic Delivery Authority, 27 of which are in Essex including one in West Chelmsford.

The London 2012 Business Network was set up to provide businesses across the UK with access to contracts in the London 2012 supply chains and any support they need to compete for them. At the end of January, over 11,600 businesses from the East of England had registered on CompeteFor, the electronic brokerage service for buyers and suppliers. So far 60 of these have won contracts. Businesses can find out about Games-related contra[illegible] opportunities on CompeteFor at:

www.competefor.com

and for business support services, businesses in the East of England can contact Business Link at:

www.businesslink.co.uk/eastofengland

or by calling 0845 717 1615.

Hosting the Olympic Mountain Biking Competition in Hadleigh Farm in Essex will provide an opportunity to showcase the region to the rest of the UK and abroad, increasing further the potential for the region to benefit economically.

PRIME MINISTER

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Prime Minister when he intends to reply to the letter to him dated 29 November 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Colin Bardsley. [316878]

The Prime Minister: A reply has been sent.

Stabilisation Unit

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Prime Minister which Minister is responsible for the Stabilisation Unit; and what the unit's budget is for 2009-10. [317514]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press notice issued by my office on 9 February 2010. A copy is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page22421

WALES

Devolution: Referendums

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the cost to the public purse was of the most recent referendum on devolution in Wales. [316967]

Mr. Hain: The cost of the 1997 referendum on devolution in Wales was in the region of £2 million.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest likely cost to the public purse of a referendum in Wales on the extension of powers under the Government of Wales Act 2006; [317312]

(2) by what mechanism public funding in respect of any referendum held in Wales on the extension of powers under the Government of Wales Act 2006 would be *(a)* provided and *(b)* allocated. [317313]

Mr. Hain: My officials are currently considering the potential costs of a referendum, and the mechanisms involved, for discussion with other key stakeholders.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Training

Mr. Harper: To ask the Leader of the House whether any *(a)* staff away days and *(b)* staff team building exercises have been held for staff in the Leader of the House's Office in each of the last two years. [317267]

Barbara Keeley: A range of development opportunities are open to civil servants in the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons. These are discussed by each member of staff as part of their appraisal process.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Leader of the House how much was spent on *(a)* staff training and *(b)* communication training for the Leader of the House's Office in the last 12 months. [317271]

Barbara Keeley: Training courses are just one aspect of the development opportunities open to civil servants in the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons, and every member of staff discusses their personal development as part of their appraisal process.

Information on courses attended is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, during the last 12 months members of staff participated in training provided by external training organisations and internal training courses which are provided by the Cabinet Office free of charge.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Crimes of Violence: Females

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office spent on producing and distributing the Tackling violence against women and girls: a guide to good practice communication document. [316958]

Maria Eagle: The production of "Tackling violence against women and girls: a guide to good practice communication" cost the GEO £134,868.78 excluding VAT. This cost includes considerable new research. The guide is a web-based document; therefore no distribution costs were incurred. The guide has been well received by partners in government and outside.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* the Government Equalities Office and *(b)* the executive agencies for which she is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in the Office is of (i) full-time disabled staff, (ii) full-time non-disabled staff, (iii) part-time disabled staff and (iv) part-time non-disabled staff. [317904]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office has less than 10 staff that have elected to declare themselves as disabled. Given these small numbers it is not appropriate to give the information requested.

Departmental Energy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the estimated *(a)* amount and *(b)* cost was of energy used in her Department and its agencies in each year since 1997; what proportion of the energy used was generated from renewable sources in each of those years; and if she will make a statement. [317240]

Michael Jabez Foster: Since it's creation on 12 October 2007, the Government Equalities Office has occupied accommodation in Communities and Local Government-owned buildings under a memorandum of terms of occupancy. The invoices that result do not show the components of the cost of GEO occupancy and no figures are available on the amount and cost of energy used.

Departmental Official Hospitality

John Mason: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many receptions she has hosted for representatives of print and broadcast media since 3 October 2008. [316790]

Michael Jabez Foster: No receptions have been hosted for representatives of print and broadcast media since 3 October 2008.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will publish the travel guidance issued to staff of the Government Equalities Office's non-departmental public bodies. [314930]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office does not issue separate travel guidance to their non-departmental public bodies which are:

Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)

Women's National Commission (WNC)

WNC uses the same policy as the Government Equalities Office (GEO) which will be published on GEO's external website at:

www.equalities.gov.uk

The EHRC follows its own travel policy and a copy of their travel guidance will be placed in the Library.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Databases

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1003W, on Equality and Human Rights Commission: databases, what the budget is for the new equality measurement framework database; whether it will hold personal data; what anonymised Census data it will use; whether a privacy impact assessment for that database will be prepared; and which organisations will be asked to provide data for that database. [314959][1]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission budget for the development of the Equality Measurement Framework tool (EMF) is £2 million.

The plan is that no personal data will be stored or used within the context of the framework and because the data will be drawn from existing surveys most of which are already accessible to members of the public there will be no requirement for a privacy impact assessment.

The framework will not be using anonymised census information.

The intention is that data will be drawn from the following organisations: The Office for National Statistics, the NHS, the devolved Administrations, Government Departments, local government and the police force.

Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Feltham and Heston constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to the Government Equalities Office's policies since its establishment. [316684]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office operates at a strategic level across Government to promote policies which address discrimination. It is not possible to provide statistical information about the effects on Feltham and Heston of the policies and actions of GEO since it was established.

Prostitution: Internet

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether the Government Equalities Office has made a recent estimate of the number of prostitutes who have become involved in the sex industry by making contact with companies on the internet; whether she plans to seek to prevent the use of the internet for such purposes; and if she will make a statement. [316076]

Maria Eagle: The Government have not made an estimate of the number of prostitutes who have become involved in the sex industry through establishing contact via the internet.

As part of the Violence Against Women Strategy, published in November 2009, the Government have also made a commitment to explore what action can be taken to challenge the advertising of prostitution.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Sewage

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated completion date is of his Department's review of the Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations. [317795]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations 1989 and associated code of practice are currently being reviewed by DEFRA. Subject to policy clearance we will publish the proposals for a review, and draft regulations and a code of practice for public consultation, prior to making new regulations. This work is under way, but it is not possible to estimate how quickly the new regulations can be made.

Air Pollution: Greater London

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when he last discussed air quality in London with the Mayor of London; and if he will make a statement; [317718]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that London meets air quality standards provided for in legislation; and if he will make a statement. [317724]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As Minister for the Environment, I last met with the Mayor of London in August 2009 to discuss air quality in London. Since then, the Secretary of State participated in a teleconference with the Mayor on this same matter on 7 December 2009.

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[1] *[Official Report, 26 February 2010, Vol. 506, c. 9-10MC.]*

DEFRA officials meet regularly with the Greater London Authority (GLA) and Transport for London to discuss the Mayor's Air Quality Strategy and action necessary to meet both NO_2 (nitrogen dioxide) and PM_{10} (particulate matter) limit values in London. These meetings include discussions on our preparations for our resubmission to the Commission for additional time to meet the PM_{10} limit value in London. The latest draft of the Mayor's strategy was published in October 2009 and contained many helpful measures within it. However, further detail on the impact of these measures is needed to assess their contribution to meeting air quality standards. I am advised that public consultation on the strategy should commence in March this year and officials will continue to work with the GLA on the contribution of the strategy to meeting air quality standards.

Animal Health Bill: Draft

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the draft Animal Health Bill, whether he plans to bring forward proposals to extend the powers available to inspectors. [315786]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Clause 47 of the draft Animal Health Bill broadens the powers available to inspectors to take samples of substances such as blood, tissue, excreta and milk to find out whether disease, or causative agents of disease exist.

The draft Animal Health Bill has been published for consultation and will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny by Parliament before any such Bill is formally introduced.

Animal Tracing Schemes

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what livestock traceability schemes his Department is responsible; and what the *(a)* objectives and *(b)* costs in 2009-10 are of each. [316826]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA is responsible for traceability across the main farmed livestock species: cattle, pigs, sheep and goats. Reliable traceability of livestock underpins disease control measures, ensures effective disease surveillance and maintains consumer confidence. Detailed figures by species are not available but identifying the main livestock species in England and tracking their movements costs Government and the livestock industry in the region of £55 million per year[1].

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[1] NAO report "Identifying and Tracking Livestock in England": November 2003.

Association of Photographers

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received from the Association of Photographers on Environment Agency photography contracts. [316715]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA has received a letter on behalf of the Association of Photographers on the Environment Agency's photography contracts.

The Environment Agency has been in contact with relevant photography organisations to clarify that all photographers will be paid for their work whether that be covering expenses, royalties or paying an agreed rate for their time.

Bees: Imports

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has made an estimate of the cost to the bee industry of importing queen bees in the last five years. [316499]

Dan Norris: No estimate has been made of the cost of importing queen bees. The cost to the bee industry varies considerably depending on the country of origin and the number of bees per consignment and can range between approximately £7-£50 or more for specialist breeder queens. The Food and Environment Research Agency's national bee unit records data on the number of bees imported into England for statutory disease control purposes. These data were set out in the answer of 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 7W.

Carbon Emissions: Business

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average amount of carbon dioxide emitted by companies which do not meet the minimum reporting guidelines on greenhouse gas emissions in each of the last three years. [317629]

Dan Norris: We encourage companies to publicly disclose their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions using the recently published DEFRA/Department of Environment and Climate Change "Guidance on how to measure and report your greenhouse gas emissions", but such disclosures are not collected by the Government. No estimate has been made of the average carbon dioxide emissions of companies that do not report their GHG emissions.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any written instructions have been provided to his Department's Accounting Officer in accordance with paragraph 5.5 of the Ministerial Code since May 1997. [315561]

Dan Norris: Each accounting officer receives a copy of chapter 3 of Managing Public Money (the Accounting Officer Memorandum), which includes instructions on ministerial directions.

Departmental Consultants

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much consultants employed by his Department and its agencies have been paid *(a)* in total and *(b)* in reimbursable expenses in each of the last 10 years. [313992]

Dan Norris: The information is as follows:

(a) DEFRA has reported its use of consultants in its annual departmental reports.

		£ million
	Area	
Departmental reports	*Management and business consultancy*	*Specialist consultancy*
2002-03	15	40
2003-04	20	40
2004-05	79	36
2005-06	44	37
2006-07	29	54

Note:

The figures were derived on identifying the spend with particular external suppliers and placing all that spend under one of the areas shown in the table. It was recognised that this does lead to some inaccuracies as spend with a supplier may be across more than one expenditure area. But at the time, this was the only method available.

Refined processes were introduced in 2007-08, which allowed DEFRA to be more specific in the 2009 departmental report (for fiscal year 2007-08) with more accurate figures for Professional Services Consultancy. This is based on the extensive use of improved procurement category codes, a process which OGC adopted for the first Public Sector Procurement Expenditure Survey in October 2008 using their own version of category codes and to which we needed to map our category codes.

PSPES reports[1]

	£ million
2007-08	37
2008-09	35
2009-10 (Ap-No. only)	[2]23

[1] PSPES—Annual Public Sector Procurement Expenditure Survey.

[2] To be validated for next PSPES.

(b) Information on reimbursable expenses could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many planned visits by Ministers in his Department within the UK were cancelled within 72 hours of the visit taking place in the last 12 months; and what the planned venue or venues were for each such visit. [309878]

Dan Norris: The Department does not hold information in the form requested. Even if collation in this form were possible, it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies are in transition prior to being managed out; how long on average the transition window between notification and exit has been in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the salary costs of staff in transition in each such year; and what proportion of employees in transition were classed as being so for more than six months in each year. [313242]

Dan Norris: The definition of 'in transition' we have used in answering this question is 'employees who have been officially declared surplus'.

As at 4 February 2010, the number of surplus employees in core DEFRA is so low that we are withholding it on the grounds of the confidentiality of the individuals concerned. There are currently 33 surplus employees in the Rural Payments Agency and seven in animal health. None of the other agencies currently have surplus employees.

Not all the information requested is available, as DEFRA has not maintained a historical central record of its surplus employees, but it is doing so now.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many job vacancies in his Department and its agencies were filled through external recruitment in the last year for which figures are available. [315475]

Dan Norris: For the 2009 calendar year DEFRA and its agencies filled 909 vacancies through external recruitment. Core DEFRA and its agencies comprises 10.189 staff (figure at 31 March 2009).

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its agencies spent on external recruitment consultants in the last year for which figures are available. [315476]

Dan Norris: Our purchasing systems do not separate out expenditure on external recruitment consultants from expenditure on other HR consultancy services supplied to DEFRA and our agencies. The information requested can therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Food: Origin Marking

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications he has received for an EU Traditional Speciality Guaranteed designation for UK products in each of the last four years. [317924]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA is the National Competent Authority for the UK. Applications are submitted to and assessed by ADAS (for England), and the appropriate devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland before being forwarded to DEFRA.

Since 2006, five applications have been made for protection under the EU's Traditional Speciality Guaranteed (TSG) designation. The breakdown of applications is as follows:

	Number of TSG applications received
2006	0
2007	2
2008	3
2009	0
Total	5

Hotels

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many separate bookings for stays at five star or above hotels were made through the Expotel contract by his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [315474]

Dan Norris: Expotel are unable to provide details of the star rating of the hotel accommodation booked, this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Origin Marking

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications he has received for EU *(a)* Protected Geographical Indication and *(b)* Protected Designation of Origin status for UK products in each of the last four years. [318008]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA is the national competent authority for the UK, although applications are submitted to and assessed by ADAS (for England), and the appropriate devolved Administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland before being forwarded to DEFRA.

Since 2006, the number of UK applications for Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) or Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) status which have been received are as follows:

	PGI	*PDO*
2006	3	3
2007	2	2
2008	4	4
2009	0	11
Total	9	20

Power Stations: Plymouth

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how frequently the Environment Agency monitors the effect on air quality of emissions from Langage power station. [317348]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Environment Agency require Langage power station to monitor chimney emissions continually. Each day a turbine is running, the operator is required to record the daily average and maximum hourly average emissions.

The Environment Agency can inspect or audit the collection of these data on-site at any time.

Ragwort

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effects of ragwort on the health of horses and grazing stock. [317321]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government are aware of the effects of ragwort on the health of horses and grazing stock and in 2004 issued a Code of Practice on How to Prevent the Spread of Ragwort. The Code applies to Common ragwort (Senecio jacobaea) which is one of five injurious weeds specified in the Weeds Act 1959. Common ragwort is the only one of the five weeds listed in the Act which is poisonous to horses and other grazing animals.

The code was drawn up in consultation with a steering group which included the British Horse Society and includes an environmental appraisal which drew on evidence from a number of sources of the effects of ragwort poisoning on horses and other livestock. The code provides comprehensive guidance to all land owners and occupiers on how to take a cost effective approach to weed control.

DEFRA's policy under the Weeds Act 1959 is to control injurious weeds where there is a threat to animal welfare or agricultural activities. DEFRA's policy is not to eradicate Common Ragwort and other injurious weeds because in the right place, Common Ragwort and the other specified weeds make an important contribution to the biodiversity of the countryside.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to make his Department's guidance on controlling the spread of ragwort more effective. [317322]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government's "Code of Practice on How to Prevent the Spread of Ragwort" was published in July 2004 and we have no immediate plans to review the code.

Stress

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the advice issued to staff of his Department on stress recognition and management. [314523]

Dan Norris: DEFRA encourages staff to use our comprehensive intranet-based toolkit information on the awareness, prevention and management of stress in and outside the workplace. An additional resource offering information, guidance and various sources of confidential support is also accessible to all departmental staff on an externally hosted microsite, via our occupational health provider.

DEFRA is currently developing a new Stress policy and anticipates this will be published on its intranet for the information of all staff and managers by this summer.

I will place copies of our advice in the Library.

Trees

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to increase the net number of trees in the next five years. [317396]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Our Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests puts a strong emphasis on planting the right tree in the right place. We will be taking an integrated approach to see where additional woodland can complement other activities.

As part of the Low Carbon Transition Plan announced in July, the Forestry Commission and DEFRA are working to develop the framework needed for a step change in the level of woodland creation for the next 15 years. As part of this, the Forestry Commission will be working with partners in each region to identify scope for increasing the area of woodland.

Veterinary Services: Complaints

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the consideration by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons of complaints relating to veterinary services; and if he will bring forward proposals to amend the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 to provide for the regulation by his Department of complaints procedures in relation to veterinary services. [317006]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) has written to request that DEFRA put forward a legislative reform order (using powers in the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006) to change the constitution of the Disciplinary Committee and Preliminary Investigation Committee. The President of the British Veterinary Association has written in support of the RCVS proposal.

I am due to meet the Action Group Against the Professional Conduct Department of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons on 2 March to discuss their concerns about the current system for investigating complaints against veterinary surgeons.

Written Questions: Administrative Delays

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to answer Question 300896, on departmental pay, tabled on 18 November 2009. [313134]

Dan Norris: I replied to the hon. Member on 28 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1004-06W.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Barking Park

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what charging regime is in place for users of Barking Park car park; and how much revenue has been received from such charges in each of the last five years. [316735]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 10 February 2010]*: While my Department is responsible for the Royal Parks, which manages the eight Royal Parks and a number of other open spaces, Barking Park is not one of these.

Barking Park is run by the London borough of Barking and Dagenham and any information regarding car parking charges would have to be requested directly from them.

Brass Bands: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress he has made in the provision of additional funding for brass bands. [316638]

Margaret Hodge: The provision of additional funding for brass bands is being undertaken by Arts Council England who advise they are unable to provide the full breakdown of information within the necessary timeframe.

I have therefore asked the chief executive of The Arts Council England to write direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the executive agency for which he is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in (i) his Department and (ii) the executive agency is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [317909]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department currently employs 15 (3.1 per cent.) disabled staff. The Royal Parks Agency currently employs five (4 per cent.) disabled staff. These figures show those employees who have actually declared a disability.

The average salary across all grades in both DCMS and the Royal Parks Agency is set out in the table.

£

	Full-time	Part-time
DCMS		
Disabled	32,936	25,139
Non-disabled	39,669	26,045
Royal Parks Agency		
Disabled	30,752.20	—
Non-disabled	32,224.73	31,039.25

Departmental NDBPs

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions he has met representatives of each of the advisory non-departmental public bodies sponsored by his Department in the last 12 months. [317009]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have met with representatives of the advisory non-departmental public bodies sponsored by the Department at a number of events in the course of my duties. The Minister for Culture has also held 14 formal meetings with these bodies.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) with reference to the answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1744W, on departmental public relations, how many staff in his Department and its agency are *(a)* embedded communicators and *(b)* members of the Government Communications Network but are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book; [315163]

(2) how many staff in his Department and its agencies *(a)* have the status of embedded communicators and *(b)* are members of the Government Communications Network but are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book. [315171]

Mr. Bradshaw: No members of staff in my Department or its agency, the Royal Parks, are embedded communicators. In addition to the Department's central communications directorate, the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) has a communications team consisting of 5.8 communications staff. This team is considered, and has been included in previous responses as, part of the Department's communications staff.

Within my Department all members of the Government Communications Network (GCN) are listed in the Central Office of Information (COI) White Book. The Royal Parks Agency has four communications staff belonging to the GCN that are not listed in the COI White Book.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how much his Department spent on each *(a)* survey and *(b)* independent report it commissioned in each of the last five years; and which organisation was contracted in each such case; [317158]

(2) what *(a)* surveys and *(b)* independent reports commissioned by his Department were undertaken in each of the last five years; how much each cost; and which organisation undertook each. [317521]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The table shows how much my Department spent on our commissioned surveys and independent research reports for each year over the last five years, with the relevant organisation given in each case.

	Commissioned organisation	*Cost*[1]
Surveys		
2005-06	BMRB	£1,180,000
2006	RSE Cons Ltd.	£30,000
2006	BMRB	£51,000
2006	Ipsos MORI	£91,000
2006-07	BMRB	£1,796,000
2007	Nottingham University Business School	£47,000
2007	BMRB	£97,000
2007	ORC International	£5,000
2007-08	BMRB	£1,500,000
2008	BMRB	£69,000
2008	BMRB	£34,000
2008-09	BMRB	£1,406,000
2009	Continental	£50,000
2009	BMRB	£62,000
2009	BMRB	£27,000
2010	Ipsos MORI	£9,000
Independent Reports		
2005	Cragg Ross Dawson	£24,000
2005	University of Stirling	£5,000
2005	Anglia University	£33,000
2005	Ipsos RSL	£38,000
2005	MasterCard	£20,000
2005	BOP	£25,000
2005	BMRB	£54,000
2005	National Opinion Research Centre	US$83,000
2005	University of Nottingham	£29,000
2006	Trauma Training	£16,000
2006	Frontier Economics	£55,000
2006	Work Foundation	£25,000
2006	Work Foundation	£50,000
2006	Experian	£10,000
2006	Lancaster University	£50,000
2006	David Trickley	£15,000
2006	Anne Eyre Trauma Training	£29,000
2006	De Montfort University	£44,000
2006	PWC	£100,000
2006	CIPFA	£60,000
2006	Morris Hargreaves McIntyre	£29,000
2006	Freshminds	£29,000
2006	Campbell Keegan Limited	£25,000
2006-07	Frontier Economics (comprised of several pieces of work)	£179,000
2007	Experian	£15,000
2007	BMRB and others	£114,000
2007	BMRB	£20,000
2007	TBR	£45,000
2008	PWC	£81,000
2008	BOP	£15,000
2008-09	Analysys Mason	£50,000
2008-09	BMRB	£23,000
2009	Frontier Economics (comprised of several pieces of work)	£85,000
2009	Europe Economics	£15,000
2009	PMP	£37,000
2009	BMG	£45,000
2009	Ipsos MORI	£24,000
2009	ARUP	£47,000

[1] All figures rounded to the nearest £1,000.

This does not include policy reports as we do not collect information on that basis.

Digital Broadcasting

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many complaints his Department and Digital UK have received relating to digital switchover from residents of *(a)* North Cornwall constituency, *(b)* Cornwall, *(c)* the South West region and *(d)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [317003]

Mr. Simon: The information requested regarding my Department is not held in this manner and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Information on correspondence received by Digital UK is not held centrally.

I have therefore asked the chief executive of Digital UK to write direct to the hon. Member for North Cornwall.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to ensure that viewers in Rossendale and Darwen constituency are able to receive the full range of digital television channels. [317175]

Mr. Bradshaw: The three public service broadcasting digital multiplexes, which carry around 15 channels including the public service broadcasting channels—BBC 1 and 2, ITV1, Channel 4 (S4C in Wales) and Five—should reach 98.5 per cent. of UK households after digital switchover. Services carried on the commercial multiplexes, which increase the number of channels available to around 40, are planned to reach 90 per cent. of UK households and any expansion of coverage is a commercial matter for the multiplex operators. In Granada these latter multiplexes reach around 97 per cent. of households.

For those who require more services, there are other options for receiving digital services via satellite or cable.

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the energy requirements of *(a)* digital and DAB radios and *(b)* analogue radios. [316981]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department along with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) recently commissioned an independent review of the environmental impact of the Digital Radio Switchover programme. This research will look at current energy consumption of analogue, digital receivers and transmission networks; the projected energy consumption from a future increase in digital devices and potential developments in equipment and compatibility with other technologies.

We expect the first phase of this study to be completed by spring.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to inform the public of the Government's plans for analogue wavelengths as part of its plans for digital radio; and if he will make a statement. [317071]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Digital Britain White Paper stated the Government's policy that, following the digital radio switchover, the MW spectrum will be re-allocated for non-radio purposes and the FM spectrum will be retained for radio, specifically for small commercial and community radio stations.

We have also made our position clear during the passage of the Digital Economy Bill.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received from commercial radio stations on the effects on their businesses of the roll-out of digital audio broadcasting; and if he will make a statement. [317072]

Mr. Bradshaw: My hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Erdington (Mr. Simon) met representatives of the commercial radio sector a number of times, including at two joint DCMS and RadioCentre local radio summits, which were specifically intended to engage with the smallest local radio broadcasters.

These dialogues have provided a number of opportunities to gain a clear insight into the potential impact of the digital radio switchover on radio businesses. In light of this, I believe that the proposals for a digital radio switchover, as set out in the Digital Britain White Paper, are supported by the vast majority of the radio sector.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to support local commercial radio stations in Scotland in the transition to digital broadcasting. [317563]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department is in discussion with broadcasters from across the UK to consider the impact of digital radio switchover on local commercial radio stations. This will help inform what support, if any, is needed to aid the transition to digital, beyond those already set out in the draft Digital Economy Bill.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for what reason he decided to propose a digital radio switchover date of 2015; what assessment he made of the merits of proposing the switchover date of 2017 recommended in the Digital Radio Working Group report; and if he will make a statement. [317597]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Digital Britain White Paper stated our vision for a digital radio switchover by the end of 2015. This timetable is based on industry projections of take-up over the next six years and represents an achievable date by which the switchover criteria could be achieved and a sufficient notice period for listeners to convert their remaining radio devices to digital.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to ensure that those in vulnerable groups will be eligible for the scheme to provide free digital equipment during the digital switchover. [316963]

Mr. Simon: At the time of designing the help scheme for television switchover, research suggested that age and disability were the most important indicators of lower digital TV take-up and that these groups were most likely to struggle with digital switchover.

For these reasons it was decided that the scheme would offer practical support for people who are: aged 75 or over, disabled, visually impaired or care home residents. Participating in the scheme costs a subsidised £40. However help is available free of charge where the eligible person is also in receipt of certain income related benefits.

Domestic Visits

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which constituencies he has visited on official duties in the last 12 months. [317010]

Mr. Bradshaw: Constituency visits made in the last 12 months by myself and my predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Leigh (Andy Burnham) are listed.

Elmet
City of York
Westmorland and Lonsdale
Blackpool, North and Fleetwood
Blackpool, South
Nottingham, South
Huddersfield
Wakefield
Glasgow, Central
Bristol, West
Gloucester
Birmingham Hodge Hill
Croydon, North
Liverpool, Garston
Liverpool, Riverside
Manchester Central
Eccles
Kensington and Chelsea
Bethnal Green and Bow
Plymouth, Sutton
Totnes
Torbay
Northampton, North
Corby
Newport, West
Leyton and Wanstead
Rotherham
West Lancashire
South Shields
Newcastle Upon Tyne, Central
Liverpool, Wavertree
Luton, South
Stretford and Urmston
Vauxhall
Eltham
Stoke-on-Trent, Central
Kingston upon Hull, East Central
Makerfield
Wythenshawe and Sale, East
Bolton, South East
Burnley
Bootle
Southampton, Itchen
Arundel and South Downs

Drama: Young People

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage young people to participate in *(a)* drama production and *(b)* acting. [314736]

Margaret Hodge: Providing access to high quality drama and theatre opportunities is part of the cultural offer, currently being tested through Find Your Talent. Nearly £24 million is being invested into 10 pathfinder areas to test how best to offer all children and young people the opportunity to access five hours of high quality cultural activity a week. Each of the 10 pathfinders are offering opportunities for children and young people to experience and participate in theatre, especially those with least access.

My Department also supported Arts Council England to deliver the £1.8 million national "Young People's Participatory Theatre" (YPPT) programme. This aims to increase young people's access to and participation in theatre through improved information on where to find and take part in high quality activities. We have also launched "Open Doors", a scheme which saw theatres across the country opening up to provide interactive events and workshops highlighting the wide variety of potential careers in theatre.

The "A Night Less Ordinary" initiative, launched by Arts Council England in February 2009 provided 122,000 free theatre tickets to under 26-year-olds in its first nine months. By removing price as a barrier to participation, the scheme enables more young people to experience theatre, and it is hoped will help to create both the practitioners and audiences of the future.

iPhone

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to enable deposit libraries to archive iPhone applications. [316646]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 9 February 2010]:* The Legal Deposit Advisory Panel advises the Secretary of State on the deposit of non-print material. The Panel has made recommendations on the "Collection and Preservation of UK Offline and Microform Publications" and the "Collection and Preservation of UK Online Publications Free of Charge and Without Access Restriction" and we are currently consulting on the Panel's recommendations. The consultation period ends on 1 March 2010. The Government are keen to get these proposals through and will consider other content in the future.

Mass Media: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps his Department has taken to increase the level of media literacy in Coventry; and how much funding his Department has allocated to Coventry for that purpose since 2005. [316906]

Margaret Hodge: My Department does not directly allocate funding to specific regions for the purpose of increasing the level of media literacy. However, the Government and Ofcom have worked with media industry bodies, educational organisations and third sector groups on a range of initiatives to improve media literacy and digital participation across the UK. The Government are also considering a range of educational initiatives to improve the media literacy skills of children and parents in England and Wales.

Since 2005 my Department has provided grant in aid of £559,000 a year to support Ofcom's media literacy work programme. As part of the 2009-10 programme the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education was given support for its Adult Learners' Week. This project included events in Coventry such as internet for beginners' sessions organised by Coventry Central Library and ancestry sessions at Coventry's Canley Community Library.

National Gallery: Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many members of the board of the National Gallery receive *(a)* remuneration and *(b)* expenses only. [317964]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The National Gallery is an exempt charity, governed by the Museums and Galleries Act 1992. As charity trustees, none receive remuneration but all are entitled to reclaim reasonable expenses.

Olympic Games: Canada

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he met the Snowsport GB team before its departure for the Winter Olympics. [317374]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport did not meet with the Snowsport GB team before its departure to the Winter Olympics.

I, however, attended the launch of Team GB on 26 January.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his policy is on the funding of British teams to participate in Winter Olympics events. [317375]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport funds UK Sport to deliver sporting excellence, primarily at the Olympics and Paralympics.

UK Sport allocates this funding based on the current performance and future potential of sports, via its successful "no compromise" investment strategy, which uses objective information to make funding awards that reflect each sport's relative ability to win medals on the world stage, whether at the Summer or Winter Olympics.

Snowsport GB

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with Snowsport GB on its finances; and when he first became aware of Snowsport GB's financial situation. [317371]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The chair of Snowsport GB wrote to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on 14 December 2009, informing us of their recent financial difficulties.

This followed a request in July 2009 for the Department to act as guarantor for a number of loans that Snowsport GB was seeking to raise from the private sector. Snowsport GB representatives discussed their situation and the way the organisation had been managed with DCMS and UK Sport officials on both occasions.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has had recent discussions with *(a)* the British Olympic Association and *(b)* others on Snowsport GB. [317372]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have had no recent discussions with the British Olympic Association or others on Snowsport GB.

Officials from my Department and UK Sport had contact with the British Olympic Association regarding contingency plans to support the participation of the ski and snowboard teams in the Vancouver Winter Olympics.

Swimming: Concessions

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of those aged *(a)* under 16 and *(b)* over 60 years old resident in Salford have participated in his Department's free swimming programmes. [317551]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The number of unique participants in the free swimming programme is not collected centrally. Local authorities are responsible for collecting data on the number of free swims that have taken place in their area each month.

The table shows the total number of free swims that have taken place under the free swimming scheme by people aged 16 years and under, and people aged 60 and over, in the Salford local authority area between April 2009, when the scheme began, and December 2009.

These data were published on 5 February 2010:

	Number
Under 16 swims	73,907
Over 60s swims	23,900
Total	97,807

Tourism: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department allocated to Gloucestershire for the purposes of tourism in each of the last 10 years. [315879]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested is not held centrally. south west RDA has the primary role in taking forward a regional tourism strategy, and in deciding on tourism investment that would affect Gloucestershire. The reported tourism investment of the south west regional development agency for 2008-09 across the entire region was £3 million.

In partnership with the industry and the wider public sector, the DCMS has a clear and coherent policy framework for industry growth. This includes branding and marketing improvement led by VisitBritain; the National Tourism Skills Strategy; work across Britain to drive up product quality through accommodation grading schemes and the better co-ordination of public investment of over £350 million a year in tourism at national, regional and local levels.

In addition, the overall level of public sector investment in tourism from local, regional and national sources is likely to exceed £2 billion in the current spending review period. The Government believe this public investment is a good and reasonable investment in support for the tourism and hospitality industry.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Boilers: Government Assistance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the area of residence of people who have made inquiries about eligibility for assistance under his Department's boiler scrappage scheme. [312740]

Joan Ruddock: Calls to the Energy Saving Trust, which is delivering the boiler scrappage scheme, are diverted to the nearest regional office in most cases based on the caller's telephone number if a landline is used. An analysis of number of calls received on the subject of eligibility for the boiler scrappage scheme by location of the call centre would provide a broad indication of the callers' region.

The applicant's address is required when an application is made. The Department intends to publish shortly details indicating the level of interest in the boiler scrappage scheme, and we would hope to present this information region by region.

Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to implement a personal carbon incentive scheme; when the scheme will be introduced; and how it will operate. [3167

Joan Ruddock: DECC's ambition to implement a scheme for a new personal carbon challenge with rewards and incentives for saving energy was set out in "The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan".

DECC is actively investigating how best to achieve this ambition. However, we are aware that there are existing schemes and proposals and are also looking to see how we can supplement them.

Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will set out, with statistical information as closely related to Chorley constituency as possible, the effect on that constituency of the policies of his Department since its inception. [314240]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change and its predecessors have implemented a large number of policies to address energy security, emissions reductions, low carbon economic growth and fuel poverty. Some of the key achievements are set out as follows, along with information on the number of households assisted by the Warm Front scheme in Chorley constituency. It would be disproportionately costly to provide statistical information on all the impact of all the policies to the level of detail requested, but statistical information covering energy and climate change is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/statistics.aspx

Key achievements

Total UK greenhouse gas emissions have been reduced by about 12 per cent. compared with 1997.

The UK is on track to cut emissions by nearly twice our Kyoto target (22 per cent. below 1990 levels by 2008-12 compared to the target of 12.5 per cent. set out under the Kyoto agreement).

The Climate Change Act in 2008 set a target of at least 80 per cent. reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050. Our first three carbon budgets legally bind the UK to a cut in greenhouse gases of 34 per cent. by 2018-22 against a 1990 baseline. In 2009, the UK's Low Carbon Transition Plan set out the long-term vision for climate change and energy and showing how we will meet the carbon budgets set out in the Climate Change Act.

In the same year, the Department published national policy statements on energy infrastructure which will lead to faster and fairer planning decisions and a diverse low carbon energy mix. An ambitious new framework for clean coal will also drive development of carbon capture and storage.

The UK's energy market is the most competitive in the EU and has attracted over £97 billion of investment from 1997 to 2008 (at 2005 prices). The UK also has the greatest installed capacity of offshore wind in the world.

Turning to household measures, since 2002, the carbon emissions reduction target (CERT) and its predecessors have helped over six million households with insulation measures with almost three million of these in a priority group of vulnerable households.

Government will be providing more financial assistance to help people generate their own heat and electricity in low carbon ways, where appropriate, through 'clean energy cashback' schemes:

Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) will be in place from April 2010. Payment for low carbon electricity produced by small-scale generators (including households) will be provided through the electricity supply companies to encourage the uptake of low carbon and renewable electricity generating technologies by households, businesses and communities.

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), scheduled for launch in April 2011, will provide households, communities and businesses with payment for getting their heat from renewable sources. The detailed design of the RHI is currently out for consultation.

Warm Front scheme: Chorley constituency

DECC's Warm Front scheme provides grants for households on qualifying income and disability-related benefits to install a range of insulation and heating measures in their homes. Since 2000, the scheme has assisted 3,223 households in the Chorley constituency.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether any written instructions have been provided to his Department's Accounting Officer in accordance with paragraph 5.5 of the Ministerial Code since his Department's inception. [315563]

Joan Ruddock: No such written instructions have been provided.

Departmental Billing

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average length of time taken by his Department to pay invoices from *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprises and *(b)* all creditors in the last 12 months. [315129]

Joan Ruddock: DECC monitors its payment performance on the target of paying invoices within 10 days of receipt and this is included within the monthly management information reports. We do not however, differentiate between the size of each creditor as the same target applies to all. The latest available data is for December 2009, when 90.7 per cent. of invoices were paid within 10 days.

Departmental Consultants

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many consultants his Department employed in each year since its inception; and how many hours were worked by such consultants for his Department in each of the last 10 years. [314016]

Joan Ruddock: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental E-mail

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what procedures govern the manner in which his Department replies by e-mail to e-mail correspondence from *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public. [316080]

Joan Ruddock: Until mid January, BIS and DEFRA handled all of DECC's correspondence in line with their respective departmental procedures, underpinned by Cabinet Office Guidance available at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/
handling_members_correspondence/
guidance_for_departments/guidance/mps.aspx

This general guidance recommends that e-mail correspondence is replied to in the same medium where possible, unless requested otherwise.

Since 18 January the Department has handled its own correspondence. It continues to follow Cabinet Office guidance with a view to maximising e-communication where appropriate.

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Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in his Department have the status of *(a)* embedded communicators and *(b)* are members of the Government Communications Network and are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book. [315568]

Joan Ruddock: There are 11 embedded communicators in the Department. None of these are listed in the Central Office of Information White Book.

Government Communications Network (GCN) membership data are not held by the Department. The Cabinet Office unit that administers the GCN is unable to share membership data without the permission of individual members, therefore it is not possible to readily provide accurate information on this without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for which Google Adword online advertising keywords his Department and its agencies have paid in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [315468]

Joan Ruddock: Primarily as part of the Act on CO_2 campaign, the Department has paid for Google keywords (search words) over the past year to enable people to find information about energy, climate change and carbon reduction actions, quickly and effectively by taking people through to the Act on CO_2 website.

The Google Adword system is like an auction and places advertisers in order of prominence according to how much they bid for a relevant keyword. It should be noted however that the actual cost the Department incurs is based on the number of clicks on the sponsored DECC link displayed.

DECC has a specific account which contains keywords built around specific campaign-related themes such as loft insulation and the carbon calculator. There is also an account which is jointly funded with the Department for Transport, containing more generic keywords such as climate change and global warming and Act on CO_2 (as this is the call to action for both Departments' campaigns).

Other Government Departments and agencies such as the Energy Saving Trust sometimes bid for the same keywords as DECC. The amounts each Department pays can be capped, in order to minimise the risk of DECC and these Departments competing against each other for the same search keywords.

The total spend on paid search for DECC over the last 12 months is £361,700 (exclusive of VAT). The total spend for the Energy Saving Trust over the last 12 months is £272,000 (exclusive of VAT).

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* year end and *(b)* in-year bonuses have been paid to officials in his Department since it was established; and what expenditure his Department has incurred on such bonuses. [301301]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was created in October 2008. An element of the Department of Energy and Climate Change's overall pay award is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award for members of staff who demonstrate exceptional performance, for example by exceeding targets set or meeting challenging objectives.

Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs. The percentage of the pay bill set aside for performance-related awards is based on recommendations from the independent senior salaries review body.

	Number of staff	*Total number of in year awards*	*Value of non-consolidated performance payments from October 2008 to end March 2009 (£)*	*Wages and salaries for the year 2008-09 (£)*	*Non-consolidated performance payments as percentage of wages and salaries*
2008-09	366	172	81,055	37,996,000	0.21

These figures do not include DECC end of year non-consolidated performance payments as they were awarded after March 2009.

Electricity: Nottingham

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much electricity was supplied to the City of Nottingham from the national grid in each of the last 10 years. [317223]

Mr. Kidney: Annual electricity consumption statistics for the Nottingham city council area are only available for the years 2003 to 2008 and are shown in the following table. The statistics include both domestic and non-domestic consumption.

	Electricity consumption in Nottingham (GWh)
2003	1,342.4
2004	1,481.7
2005	1,583.0
2006	1,530.4
2007	1,459.0
2008	1,428.3

There are methodological differences in the production of the datasets before 2005 and therefore the data for 2003 and 2004 are not directly comparable. The changes in methodology were recognised as improvements and as such the statistics from 2005 are classified as National Statistics. Details of all methodologies used to compile the statistics can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/regional/regional.aspx

Energy: Conservation

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in Hemsworth have received assistance under the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme since the inception of the scheme. [316633]

Joan Ruddock: The following table shows the number of households assisted by the Warm Front scheme in Hemsworth constituency since eaga became manager of the scheme in that region.

Assisted households

	Hemsworth
2005-06	228
2006-07	651
2007-08	728
2008-09	641
2009-10[1]	454
Total	2,702

[1] To 31 January 2010.

Note:

Prior to 2005 the scheme was managed by a different provider and the data retained by the current administrator are not sufficient to provide a consolidated response.

Energy: Housing

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of households in the priority group under *(a)* phase one of the Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC), *(b)* phase two of the EEC and *(c)* the Carbon Emission Reduction Target programme which were in fuel poverty on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [317064]

Mr. Kidney: The latest figures available are for England in 2007. The following table shows number of priority group households in England for each phase of EEC and CERT and the proportion of these that are estimated to be in fuel poverty in 2007:

	In priority groups			
	EEC1[1]	*EEC2*[1]	*CERT*	*All households*
Total number of households (thousand)	6,545	5,559	8,681	21,380
Number of fuel poor households (thousand)	1,279	1,224	2,096	2,819
Proportion of households that are fuel poor (percentage)	19.5	22.0	24.1	13.2

[1] EEC1 and EEC2 figures are estimated.

Each of the policies covers GB, but fuel poverty statistics are a devolved responsibility.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of fuel poor households which *(a)* have received assistance in respect of his Department's provision for each energy saving measure under each of the first two phases of the Energy Efficiency Commitment and the Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT) programme in each year since 2002-03 and *(b)* will receive assistance in respect of his Department's provision for each such measure under the extended CERT programme; and if he will make a statement. [317065]

Mr. Kidney: The data requested are not available because the English Housing Survey, which is used to model fuel poverty, does not monitor individual households through time, rather it draws a representative sample each year. As such, it is not possible to identify individual households that have received assistance under these schemes, although the impact in aggregate of them will be captured in the fuel poverty statistics.

- Over 7 million households have benefited from insulation measures alone since 2002 through EEC and CERT. 40 per cent. of the carbon saving target is required to be achieved in a Priority Group of more vulnerable households on eligible benefits and aged 70 and over, so these schemes will have had a considerable impact in helping many households heat their homes for less. The CERT extension phase from April 2011 to December is proposed to be as ambitious as CERT.

Exhaust Emissions: Aviation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the aviation industry in the UK in each of the last five years. [317630]

Joan Ruddock: On 2 February 2010 DECC published final 2008 estimates of UK greenhouse gas emissions as National Statistics. 2008 is the latest year for which data are available.

Two separate sectoral breakdowns are published each year: by source and by end-user. The former breakdown is based on the sector where the emissions actually occurred; the latter breakdown reallocates these same emissions in accordance with where the end-use actually occurred. This effectively reallocates emissions from energy supply to, for example, household and business energy usage.

For aviation, emissions by source and end-users are very close to one another.

By source, carbon dioxide emissions from domestic aviation over the period 2004-08 are shown in the following table. They are based on National Communications sectors, which are the basis for UK Government reporting. The 2008 end-user breakdown will be published on 25 March 2010.

Carbon dioxide emissions from domestic aviation: by source breakdown, 2004-08

Million tonnes of CO_2

NC category	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Aviation	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2

Emissions from international aviation can be estimated from refuelling from bunkers at UK airports, whether by UK or non-UK operators. Under the reporting guidelines agreed by the UNFCCC, these emissions are not included in the UK's emissions total, but are reported as memo items in national greenhouse gas inventories. Parties to the UNFCCC are required to act to limit or reduce emissions from international services working through the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

The following table provides CO_2 emissions estimates for UK international aviation over the period 2004-08.

Carbon dioxide emissions from UK-based international aviation, by source: 2004-08

Million tonnes of CO_2

Memo item	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
International aviation bunkers	32.4	35.1	35.6	35.4	34.1

All the latest headlines results and data tables can be found on the DECC website at:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate_change/gg_emissions/uk_emissions/2008_final/2008_final.aspx

Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Feltham and Heston constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to his Department's policies since its inception. [317106]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change and its predecessors have implemented a large number of policies to address energy security, emissions reductions, low carbon economic growth and fuel poverty. Some of the key achievements are set out as follows, along with information on the number of households assisted by the Warm Front scheme in Feltham and Heston constituency. It would be disproportionately costly to provide statistical information on all the impacts of all the policies to the level of detail requested, but statistical information covering energy and climate change is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/statistics.aspx

Key achievements

Total UK greenhouse gas emissions have been reduced by about 12 per cent. compared with 1997.

The UK is on track to cut emissions by nearly twice our Kyoto target (22 per cent. below 1990 levels by 2008-12 compared to the target of 12.5 per cent. set out under the Kyoto agreement).

The Climate Change Act in 2008 set a target of at least 80 per cent. reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050. Our first three carbon budgets legally bind the UK to a cut in greenhouse gases of 34 per cent. by 2018-22 against a 1990 baseline. In 2009, the UK's Low Carbon Transition Plan set out the long-term vision for climate change and energy and showing how we will meet the carbon budgets set out in the Climate Change Act.

In the same year, my Department published National Policy Statements on energy infrastructure which will lead to faster and fairer planning decisions and a diverse low carbon energy mix. An ambitious new framework for clean coal will also drive development of carbon capture and storage.

The UK's energy market is the most competitive in the EU and has attracted over £97 billion of investment from 1997 to 2008 (at 2005 prices). The UK also has the greatest installed capacity of offshore wind in the world.

Turning to household measures, since 2002, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and its predecessors have helped over 6 million households with insulation measures with almost 3 million of these in a priority group of vulnerable households.

Government will be providing more financial assistance to help people generate their own heat and electricity in low carbon ways, where appropriate, through 'clean energy cashback' schemes:

Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) will be in place from April 2010. Payment for low carbon electricity produced by small-scale generators (including households), will be provided through the electricity supply companies to encourage the uptake of low carbon and renewable electricity generating technologies by households, businesses and communities.

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), scheduled for launch in April 2011, will provide households, communities and businesses with payment for getting their heat from renewable sources. The detailed design of the RHI is currently out for consultation.

Warm Front scheme: Feltham and Heston constituency

DECC's Warm Front scheme provides grants for households on qualifying income and disability related benefits to install a range of insulation and heating measures in their homes. Since 2000 the scheme has assisted 2,156 households in the Feltham and Heston constituency.

Fuel Poverty: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to reduce the level of fuel poverty in Salford. [317392]

Mr. Kidney: The Government have a strong package of measures to help reduce fuel poverty among vulnerable households. This is centred on tackling the three root causes of fuel poverty:

Reducing the demand for energy by improving home energy efficiency through schemes such as Warm Front, Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) and the Decent Homes Standard. Between 2005 and 2010 (to 31 January) Warm Front delivered nearly £2.5 million worth of energy efficiency measures to over 2,208 Salford households; CERT requires energy suppliers to meet at least 40 per cent. of their obligation by promoting and installing measures in the homes of a Priority Group of vulnerable consumers in receipt of qualifying benefits or people aged over 70 years. Measures are only reported at a GB level and details for the work carried out in Salford are therefore not available.

Putting in place and continuously looking to improve a regulatory framework that promotes competition as the main driver to ensure downward pressure on prices for consumers, and to improve licence conditions and strengthen Ofgem's powers through the Energy Bill; and

Raising real incomes, including through Winter Fuel Payments and Cold Weather Payments alongside the wider tax and benefit system and through Benefit Entitlement Checks under the Warm Front Scheme. 386 such checks have been undertaken in Salford by Warm Front between 2005 and 2010 (to 31 January), identifying an average weekly increase in income of £35.32 for those entitled to additional benefits.

We have also introduced legislation to implement mandated social price support schemes once the current voluntary agreement with suppliers comes to an end in 2011. These schemes will provide more of the most vulnerable consumers with help towards their energy costs. We have said that we are minded to focus the majority of the additional resources on older pensioner households on the lowest incomes as these households tend to have a high incidence of fuel poverty—over 50 per cent. of fuel poor households have a person over 60 living in them; their circumstances are relatively stable; and they are at the greatest risk of excess winter deaths.

The fuel poverty review which was announced in January 2009, has been looking across all three drivers of fuel poverty, and particularly the key issue of how we can more effectively identify and target assistance at the most vulnerable households.

Hotels

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many separate bookings for stays at five star or above hotels were made through the Expotel contract by his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [315500]

Joan Ruddock: None.

Housing: Insulation

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in Feltham and Heston constituency have received assistance under the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme since the inception of the scheme. [316661]

Mr. Kidney: The following table shows how many households in Feltham and Heston have received assistance under the Warm Front scheme since the inception of the scheme.

Feltham and Heston	*Number*
2000-01	86
2001-02	181
2002-03	127
2003-04	117
2004-05	284
2005-06	159
2006-07	255
2007-08	289
2008-09	337
2009-10[1]	321
Total	2,156

[1] To 31 January

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has paid to the legal firm Nabarro for handling issues related to compensation to miners for *(a)* chest diseases, *(b)* vibration white finger and *(c)* miners' knee. [317257]

Mr. Kidney: The amount of legal fees the Department has paid to Nabarro for handling compensation to miners in respect of the British Coal Respiratory Disease Litigation (BCRDL), Vibration White Finger Handling Arrangements (VWF) and for Miners Knee Group Litigation as at 10 February 2010 is shown as follows:

	£
BCRDL	9,949,537.11
VWF	3,447,411.36
Knee litigation	5,710,185.20

These figures are exclusive of VAT and disbursements.

BCRDL fees include representation in the largest personal injury action in the UK over a 12 year period and the VWF fees cover an 11 year period. The Miners Knee Litigation fees cover a period from 2003-04 to date and primarily relate to the Department's obligations for document disclosure.

For the BCRDL and VWF the figures do not include the costs of defending individual court actions.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's most recent assessment is of the accuracy of reports issued by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. [316589]

Joan Ruddock: We consider that the IPCC's Assessment Reports provide the most authoritative and comprehensive assessment of climate-change science.

Its procedures are robust and are designed to minimise error and ensure a balanced and accurate assessment of the science. However, recent events remind us that even robust processes are not immune to mistakes. Those reported recently are isolated cases out of the thousands of papers reviewed by the IPCC.

The IPCC has proposed that a select group of distinguished external experts advise and guide the IPCC on how best to improve its procedures. A thorough review of the Principles Governing IPCC Work; the procedures for the preparation, review, acceptance, adoption, approval and publication of IPCC reports, is envisaged. The interim results of this review will be discussed at the upcoming session of the IPCC bureau in May 2010.

The UK supports the IPCC in planning to learn from mistakes and strengthen its procedures to ensure that its processes are properly followed. We remain committed to the IPCC as the primary source of information on climate-change science.

Recent errors have not changed the fundamental message that human induced climate change is happening and that we must act now to prevent the worst consequences.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter of 15 December 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Miss M. Granath. [315019]

Mr. Kidney: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 28 January.

Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to North-East Milton Keynes constituency, the effects on Milton Keynes of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [316037]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change and its predecessors have implemented a large number of policies to address energy security, emissions reductions, low carbon economic growth and fuel poverty since 1997. Following are some of the key achievements, along with information on the number of households assisted by the warm front scheme in North-East Milton Keynes constituency. It would be disproportionately costly to provide statistical information on the impact of all the policies to the level of detail requested, but statistical information covering energy and climate change is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/statistics.aspx

Key achievements since 1997

Total UK greenhouse gas emissions have been reduced by about 12 per cent. compared with 1997.

The UK is on track to cut emissions by nearly twice our Kyoto target (22 per cent. below 1990 levels by 2008-12 compared to the target of 12.5 per cent. set out under the Kyoto agreement).

The Climate Change Act in 2008 set a target of at least 80 per cent. reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050. Our first three carbon budgets legally bind the UK to a cut in greenhouse gases of 34 per cent. by 2018-22 against a 1990 baseline. In 2009, the UK's Low Carbon Transition Plan set out the long-term vision for climate change and energy and shows how we will meet the carbon budgets set out in the Climate Change Act.

In the same year, the Department published National Policy Statements on energy infrastructure which will lead to faster and fairer planning decisions and a diverse low carbon energy mix. An ambitious new framework for clean coal will also drive development of carbon capture and storage.

The UK's energy market is the most competitive in the EU and has attracted over £97 billion of investment from 1997 to 2008 (at 2005 prices). The UK also has the greatest installed capacity of offshore wind in the world.

Turning to household measures, since 2002, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and its predecessors have helped over 6 million households with insulation measures, with almost 3 million of these in a priority group of vulnerable households.

Government will be providing more financial assistance to help people generate their own heat and electricity in low carbon ways, where appropriate, through "clean energy cashback" schemes:

Feed-in tariffs (FITs) will be in place from April 2010. Payment for low carbon electricity produced by small-scale generators (including households) will be provided through the electricity supply companies to encourage the uptake of low carbon and renewable electricity generating technologies by households, businesses and communities.

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), scheduled for launch in April 2011, will provide households, communities and businesses with payment for getting their heat from renewable sources. The detailed design of the RHI is currently out for consultation.

Warm Front scheme: North-East Milton Keynes constituency

DECC's Warm Front scheme provides grants for households on qualifying income and disability related benefits to install a range of insulation and heating measures in their homes. Since 2000 the scheme has assisted 1,230 households in the North-East Milton Keynes constituency.

Nuclear Installations: Security

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will authorise the director of the Office for Civil Nuclear Security within the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate to release a redacted version of the nuclear industries malicious capabilities planning assumptions. [317559]

Mr. Kidney: The Nuclear Industries Malicious Capabilities (Planning) Assumptions is a protectively marked document produced by the Director of Civil Nuclear Security (DCNS) for use by the operators of civil licensed nuclear sites, approved carriers of nuclear material and other authorised persons. The purpose of the document is to set out the attributes and characteristics of those posing a threat to nuclear premises and to nuclear material so that an appropriate level of security can be put in place to protect against such malicious capabilities. This is a sensitive planning document underpinning security throughout the UK's civil nuclear industry and DCNS advises that it cannot be released, even in a redacted form, without significant risk to national security.

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* each leaflet and poster used to publicise each public consultation event held in the communities named as prospective sites for new nuclear build, *(b)* the printout of any PowerPoint presentation shown, *(c)* each DVD used and *(d)* all speeches made by Ministers or departmental officials at each such event. [317886]

Mr. Kidney: I have placed in the Library copies of *(a)* leaflets and posters used to publicise the draft nuclear NPS consultation events. Copies of *(b)* PowerPoint presentations and *(d)* transcripts of the meetings which include the speeches made by departmental officials at these events, can be found online on the URLs

https://www.energynpsconsultation.decc.gov.uk/nuclear/summary/

https://www.energynpsconsultation.decc.gov.uk/home/events/localevents/

No DVDs were produced for the consultation events on the draft nuclear NPS.

Offshore Industry: Taxation

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much the Government paid to *(a)* the Isle of Man and *(b)* Northern Ireland in respect of UK Continental Shelf receipts in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [317052]

Mr. Kidney: The following table shows how much the Government have paid to *(a)* the Isle of Man and *(b)* Northern Ireland in respect of a share of UK Continental Shelf receipts in FY 2007-08 and 2008-09:

Payments to Isle of Man and Northern Ireland

£000

Financial year	*Isle of Man*	*Northern Ireland*
2007-08	0	1,539
2008-09	0	1,340

Public Holidays

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the introduction of an additional public holiday; and if he will make a statement. [315120]

Joan Ruddock: No such estimate has been made.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish the findings of his Department's research on Willingness to Pay, prepared in conjunction with the Energy Saving Trust; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of that research. [317066]

Joan Ruddock: The Energy Savings Trust will publish findings from the Willingness to Pay research early in March. The report will be available for download from the EST website and a copy will be placed in the House Library.

Slough

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to the Slough constituency, the effects on Slough of his Department's policies and actions since it was established. [311985]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change and its predecessors have implemented a large number of policies to address energy security, emissions reductions, low carbon economic growth and fuel poverty. Following are set out some of the key achievements, along with information on the number of households assisted by the Warm Front scheme in Slough constituency. It would be disproportionately costly to provide statistical information on the impact of all the policies to the level of detail requested, but statistical information covering energy and climate change is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/statistics.aspx

Key achievements

Total UK greenhouse gas emissions have been reduced by about 12 per cent. compared with 1997.

The UK is on track to cut emissions by nearly twice our Kyoto target (22 per cent. below 1990 levels by 2008-12 compared to the target of 12.5 per cent. set out under the Kyoto agreement).

The Climate Change Act in 2008 set a target of at least 80 per cent. reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050. Our first three carbon budgets legally bind the UK to a cut in greenhouse gases of 34 per cent. by 2018-22 against a 1990 baseline. In 2009, the UK's Low Carbon Transition Plan set out the long-term vision for climate change and energy and shows how we will meet the carbon budgets set out in the Climate Change Act.

In the same year, the Department published National Policy Statements on energy infrastructure which will lead to faster and fairer planning decisions and a diverse low carbon energy mix. An ambitious new framework for clean coal will also drive development of carbon capture and storage.

The UK's energy market is the most competitive in the EU and has attracted over £97 billion of investment from 1997 to 2008 (at 2005 prices). The UK also has the greatest installed capacity of offshore wind in the world.

Turning to household measures, since 2002, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and its predecessors have helped over 6 million households with insulation measures with almost 3 million of these in a priority group of vulnerable households.

Government will be providing more financial assistance to help people generate their own heat and electricity in low carbon ways, where appropriate, through "clean energy cashback" schemes:

Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) will be in place from April 2010. Payment for low carbon electricity produced by small-scale generators (including households), will be provided through the electricity supply companies to encourage the uptake of low carbon and renewable electricity generating technologies by households, businesses and communities.

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), scheduled for launch in April 2011, will provide households, communities and businesses with payment for getting their heat from renewable sources. The detailed design of the RHI is currently out for consultation.

Warm Front scheme: Slough constituency

DECC's Warm Front scheme provides grants for households on qualifying income and disability related benefits to install a range of insulation and heating measures in their homes. Since 2000 the scheme has assisted 1,426 households in the Slough constituency.

Streatham

Keith Hill: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Streatham constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to his Department's policies since its inception. [313398]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change and its predecessors have implemented a large number of policies to address energy security, emissions reductions, low carbon economic growth and fuel poverty since 1997. Some of the key achievements are set out as follows, along with information on the number of households assisted by the Warm Front scheme in Streatham constituency. It would be disproportionately costly to provide statistical information on all the impact of all the policies to the level of detail requested, but statistical information covering energy and climate change is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/statistics.aspx

Key achievements since 1997

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The UK is on track to cut emissions by nearly twice our Kyoto target (22 per cent. below 1990 levels by 2008-12 compared to the target of 12.5 per cent. set out under the Kyoto agreement).

The Climate Change Act in 2008 set a target of at least 80 per cent. reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050. Our first three carbon budgets legally bind the UK to a cut in greenhouse gases of 34 per cent. by 2018-22 against a 1990 baseline. In 2009, the UK's Low Carbon Transition Plan set out the long-term vision for climate change and energy and showing how we will meet the carbon budgets set out in the Climate Change Act.

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Government will be providing more financial assistance to help people generate their own heat and electricity in low carbon ways, where appropriate, through 'clean energy cashback' schemes:

Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) will be in place from April 2010. Payment for low carbon electricity produced by small-scale generators (including households), will be provided through the electricity supply companies to encourage the uptake of low carbon and renewable electricity generating technologies by households, businesses and communities.

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), scheduled for launch in April 2011, will provide households, communities and businesses with payment for getting their heat from renewable sources. The detailed design of the RHI is currently out for consultation.

Warm Front scheme: Streatham constituency

DECC's Warm Front scheme provides grants for households on qualifying income and disability related benefits to install a range of insulation and heating measures in their homes. Since 2000 the scheme has assisted 927 households in the Streatham constituency.

Thanet

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to South Thanet constituency, the effects on South Thanet of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 2000. [315639]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change and its predecessors have implemented a large number of policies to address energy security, emissions reductions, low carbon economic growth and fuel poverty since 2000. Some of the key achievements are set out as follows, along with information on the number of households assisted by the Warm Front scheme in South Thanet constituency. It would be disproportionately costly to provide statistical information on all the impact of all the policies to the level of detail requested, but statistical information covering energy and climate change is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/statistics.aspx

Key achievements

Total UK greenhouse gas emissions have been reduced by about 12 per cent. compared with 1997.

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The Climate Change Act in 2008 set a target of at least 80 per cent. reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050. Our first three carbon budgets legally bind the UK to a cut in greenhouse gases of 34 per cent. by 2018-22 against a 1990 baseline. In 2009, the UK's Low Carbon Transition Plan set out the long-term vision for climate change and energy and showing how we will meet the carbon budgets set out in the Climate Change Act.

In the same year, the Department published National Policy Statements on energy infrastructure which will lead to faster and fairer planning decisions and a diverse low carbon energy mix. An ambitious new framework for clean coal will also drive development of carbon capture and storage.

The UK's energy market is the most competitive in the EU and has attracted over £97 billion of investment from 1997 to 2008 (at 2005 prices). The UK also has the greatest installed capacity of offshore wind in the world.

Turning to household measures, since 2002, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and its predecessors have helped over 6 million households with insulation measures with almost 3 million of these in a priority group of vulnerable households.

Government will be providing more financial assistance to help people generate their own heat and electricity in low carbon ways, where appropriate, through 'clean energy cashback' schemes:

Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) will be in place from April 2010. Payment for low carbon electricity produced by small-scale generators (including households), will be provided through the electricity supply companies to encourage the uptake of low carbon and renewable electricity generating technologies by households, businesses and communities.

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), scheduled for launch in April 2011, will provide households, communities and businesses with payment for getting their heat from renewable sources. The detailed design of the RHI is currently out for consultation.

Warm Front scheme: South Thanet constituency

DECC's Warm Front scheme provides grants for households on qualifying income and disability related benefits to install a range of insulation and heating measures in their homes. Since 2000 the scheme has assisted 2,067 households in the South Thanet constituency.

Totnes Transition Town Group

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding his Department has provided to Totnes Transition Town Group; over what period this funding is being provided; for what purpose the funding is being provided; and how the effectiveness of the funding will be evaluated. [314079]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 28 January 2010]:* Totnes Transition Group are being awarded £625,000 of funding, the benefits of which will be delivered mainly in FY 2009-10 and some in FY 2010-11. Totnes Transition Group are receiving this funding as they have been selected to take part in the low carbon communities challenge which is a £10 million Government research project for communities to improve energy efficiency and tackle the wider issue of climate change.

The monitoring and evaluation plan, managed by DECC, has been designed to capture evidence of project impacts and promote community dialogue and shared learning. The primary objective of this is to help inform and shape our policy in relation to the role of communities in delivering the transition to a low carbon economy and share our learning across the UK that will inspire and guide further community-led initiatives.

The evaluation strands consist of the installation of real time displays, survey of households, case studies, co-inquiry and shared learning.

Vauxhall

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Vauxhall constituency, the effects on the constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [310332]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change and its predecessors have implemented a large number of policies to address energy security, emissions reductions, low carbon economic growth and fuel poverty since 1997. Some of the key achievements are set out as follows, along with information on the number of households assisted by the Warm Front scheme in Vauxhall constituency. It would be disproportionately costly to provide statistical information on all the impact of all the policies to the level of detail requested, but statistical information covering energy and climate change is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/statistics.aspx

Key achievements since 1997

Total UK greenhouse gas emissions have been reduced by about 12 per cent. compared with 1997.

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The Climate Change Act in 2008 set a target of at least 80 per cent. reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050. Our first three carbon budgets legally bind the UK to a cut in greenhouse gases of 34 per cent. by 2018-22 against a 1990 baseline. In 2009, the UK's Low Carbon Transition Plan set out the long-term vision for climate change and energy and showing how we will meet the carbon budgets set out in the Climate Change Act.

In the same year, the Department published National Policy Statements on energy infrastructure which will lead to faster and fairer planning decisions and a diverse low carbon energy mix. An ambitious new framework for clean coal will also drive development of carbon capture and storage.

The UK's energy market is the most competitive in the EU and has attracted over £97 billion of investment from 1997 to 2008 (at 2005 prices). The UK also has the greatest installed capacity of offshore wind in the world.

Turning to household measures, since 2002, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and its predecessors have helped over 6 million households with insulation measures with almost 3 million of these in a priority group of vulnerable households.

Government will be providing more financial assistance to help people generate their own heat and electricity in low carbon ways, where appropriate, through 'clean energy cashback' schemes:

Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) will be in place from April 2010. Payment for low carbon electricity produced by small-scale generators (including households), will be provided through the electricity supply companies to encourage the uptake of low carbon and renewable electricity generating technologies by households, businesses and communities.

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), scheduled for launch in April 2011, will provide households, communities and businesses with payment for getting their heat from renewable sources. The detailed design of the RHI is currently out for consultation.

Warm Front scheme: Vauxhall constituency

DECC's Warm Front scheme provides grants for households on qualifying income and disability related benefits to install a range of insulation and heating measures in their homes. Since 2000 the scheme has assisted 1,190 households in the Vauxhall constituency.

Warm Front Scheme

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that quotations from Warm Front contractors match those in the private sector. [315649]

Mr. Kidney: In 2008 an independent audit carried out by the Warm Front scheme's quality assessors, White Young Green, confirmed that the Warm Front pricing structures in place at that time provided good value for money when compared with the wider market. This was supported by the National Audit Office report into the scheme published in 2009.

Following a renegotiation of the scheme manager contract aimed at improving the quality of service for Warm Front customers a number of changes were made to the Warm Front contract in July 2009.

As part of this, under the new arrangements up to 35 per cent. of work will be allocated to appointed installers at a new, competitively derived, set price. For the remaining 65 per cent. of work, Warm Front registered installers operating will be able to bid via an electronic auction to establish the lowest price. This will include all cases where a customer contribution would be required under the fixed prices. Where a customer contribution is required, individual households will be free to choose between the three lowest bidders and to help them decide will have access to the installer's performance rating.

This new system is in the process of being rolled out across England, with full coverage expected to be in place by 1 May 2010.

The effectiveness of all Warm Front pricing and cost processes continue to be subject to regular review by the Department and the independent audits by White Young Green.

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of back boilers which have been replaced under the Warm Front scheme in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* the East of England and *(d)* England in each year since its inception. [317531]

Mr. Kidney: The following table shows the total number of boilers replaced by the Warm Front Scheme in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* the East of England and *(d)* England in each year since the current phase of the scheme began in 2005, but does not differentiate between back boilers and other type of boiler replaced under Warm Front. Details on types of boiler being replaced are not recorded.

Boilers installed	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]
Mid Bedfordshire	3	18	68	99	78
Bedfordshire	70	349	1,059	1,245	851
East of England	711	2,946	6,330	7,976	7,309
England	14,136	53,436	75,600	80,548	74,932

[1] Up to 10 February 2010

Warm Front Scheme: Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applications from residents of Feltham and Heston constituency to the Warm Front Scheme for *(a)* heating, *(b)* insulation and *(c)* heating and insulation were approved in each of the last three years. [316664]

Mr. Kidney: The following table shows the number applications where *(a)* heating *(b)* insulation and *(c)* both heating and insulation measures were recommended in Felton and Heston in each of the last three years.

Measure received	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]	*Total*
Insulation	62	122	83	267
Heating	96	57	68	221
Both	68	77	74	219

[1] Up to 31 January 2010.

Note:

These figures may include those cases where a measure was recommended but not carried out. This may occur of variety of reasons, for instance, where the client chooses to have work carried out privately rather than wait for work to be carried out through the scheme.

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent on the Warm Front programme in Feltham and Heston constituency in each year since its inception; and what other steps have been taken in that constituency to *(a)* encourage greater energy efficiency measures and *(b)* reduce the level of fuel poverty. [316665]

Mr. Kidney: Table 1 shows the amount of Warm Front scheme funding spent in Feltham and Heston in each year since its inception.

Table 2 shows the number of homes and amount of funding spent in Feltham and Heston by the Warm Front £300 rebate scheme (which provides assistance to households requiring boiler replacements or repairs for those over 60 and not receiving benefits which would give them access to the main Warm Front scheme) in each year since its inception.

Table 1: Warm Front spend

Feltham and Heston	*£*
2001-02	17,569.35
2002-03	83,686.17
2003-04	101,036.17
2004-05	247,734.90
2005-06	194,810.70
2006-07	202,014.09
2007-08	313,567.20
2008-09	260,248.41
2009-10[1]	371,699.28

Table 2: Heating rebate scheme

	Vouchers issued	*Funding (£)*
2006-07	1	315.46
2007-08	66	20,449.32
2008-09	76	22,985.52
2009-10	83	22,414.84

[1] To 7 February 2010.

The Government have a strong package of measures to help reduce fuel poverty among vulnerable households. This is centred on tackling the three root causes of fuel poverty:

(i) Reducing the demand for energy by improving home energy efficiency is encouraged through schemes such the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP), the Community Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF) and the Decent Homes Standard, in addition to the Warm Front scheme which continues to be the Government's flagship scheme for tackling fuel poverty in the private household sector in England.

CERT requires energy suppliers to meet at least 40 per cent. of their obligation by promoting and installing measures in the homes of a Priority Group of vulnerable consumers in receipt of qualifying benefits or people aged over 70 years. Measures are only reported at a GB level and details for the work carried out in Feltham and Heston are therefore not available.

(ii) Putting in place and continuously looking to improve a regulatory framework that promotes competition as the main driver to ensure downward pressure on prices for consumers, and to improve licence conditions and strengthen Ofgem's powers through the Energy Bill; and

(iii) Raising real incomes, including through winter fuel payments and cold weather payments alongside the wider tax and benefit system and through benefit entitlement checks under the Warm Front scheme.

We have also introduced legislation to implement mandated social price support schemes once the current voluntary agreement with suppliers comes to an end in 2011. These schemes will provide more of the most vulnerable consumers with help towards their energy costs. We have said that we are minded to focus the majority of the additional resources on older pensioner households on the lowest incomes.

As these households tend to have a high incidence of fuel poverty—over 50 per cent. of fuel poor households have a person over 60 living in them; their circumstances are relatively stable; and they are at the greatest risk of excess winter deaths.

The fuel poverty review which was announced in January 2009, has been looking across all three drivers of fuel poverty, and particularly the key issue of how we can more effectively identify and target assistance at the most vulnerable households.

Wind Power

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for the future generating capacity of UK wind farms. [316861]

Mr. Kidney: The UK does not have specific targets for wind power generation. However, under the lead scenario in the Renewable Energy Strategy published last July, more than 30 per cent. of our electricity could be generated from renewables by 2020. Much of this generation would be from onshore and offshore wind.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the *(a)* consumable electrical output and *(b)* proportion of the maximum potential output generated by wind turbines during the severe weather conditions in December 2009 and January 2010; and what estimate he has made of the cost per unit of generating electricity from (i) wind turbines and (ii) non-renewable sources during that period. [316911]

Mr. Kidney: The latest official electricity output data are for November 2009, when major power producers supplied 740 GWh from wind generation. Electricity output data for December 2009 and January 2010 will be available on 25 February 2010 and 25 March 2010 respectively. As such, we are unable to provide an estimate of the cost per unit of generation by either wind or non-renewable sources in December and January.

Load factors are defined as the average hourly quantity of electricity supplied during the year, expressed as a percentage of the average output capability at the beginning and end of the year. As such, these are only calculated on an annual basis, with the latest data for 2008 showing 29.4 per cent. for onshore wind and 34.9 per cent. for offshore wind.

An indication of the load factors for December 2009 and January 2010 can be obtained by calculating total operational wind generation as a percentage of the theoretical maximum generation for all operationally metered wind plants. This data is made available by National Grid and only refers to wind which is operationally metered i.e. around half of the onshore wind farms and none of the offshore wind farms. Onshore wind farms generated 20.9 per cent. and 30.3 per cent. of maximum potential output in December and January respectively. Where this figure exceeds the load factor for onshore wind, given above, the plants covered by operational metering were operating at above average levels.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Better Off in Work Credit

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects the Better off in Work Credit to be available; what the monetary value will be of the weekly amount of credit provided; by what mechanisms payment of a claim will be triggered; how many people she estimates will be eligible for that credit; and if she will make a statement. [308337]

Jim Knight: We will be implementing the enhanced Better off in Work Credit in one region from October 2010 as the first step towards a national roll-out. We expect the credit to be available nationally from January 2011. The Better off in Work Credit will ensure that everyone who has been unemployed for 26 weeks or more will have at least £40 a week more income on moving into work. The amount of the credit will vary from customer to customer and will be dependent on a comparison of the income an individual receives in work against the income they received from out of work benefits.

During the Better off in Work Credit pilot that ran in Yorkshire and the Humber, customers made their applications at their local jobcentre in consultation with Jobcentre Plus staff. We will review this process to determine the most effective means of taking applications taking account of the lessons learned from the pilot before we roll out the next phase.

Of those who move from benefits to work in each year, the vast majority are already better off in work. We expect only a small minority—up to around 100,000 a year to qualify for the enhanced Better off in Work Credit.

Blaydon

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Blaydon constituency, the effect on that constituency of her Department's policies and actions since 2000. [315296]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP leads the Government's response to some of the biggest issues facing the Country—welfare and pension reform—and are a key player in tackling child poverty. As the biggest delivery department in the UK, DWP makes a difference to millions of people every day, helping them to lead safer, fairer and more rewarding lives that are free from poverty. We want to give people more choice and control over their lives and are committed to providing greater choice and personalised support to everyone who needs it so they have the opportunity to get into and remain in work. We believe that work works. Even in economically challenging times we know that work works for the most vulnerable and the disadvantaged.

Support to find work

Through Jobcentre Plus, we are promoting work as the best form of welfare for people of working age. Since 2000, although the number of people unemployed in Blaydon has increased by 45 per cent to 2,014, the number unemployed for more than one year has decreased by 28 per cent to 220. From May 2000 to May 2009 the number of lone parents claiming Income Support in Blaydon has decreased by 24 per cent to 860.

Our New Deals have helped lone parents, the young unemployed, the long-term unemployed, disabled people, the over 50s and partners of unemployed people to move from benefit into work. Since their inception over

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2.2 million people in Great Britain have found work with the support of the New Deal, and 3,620 have been helped in Blaydon.

Support for children

We introduced a target to halve child poverty by 2010-11 on the way to eradicating it by 2020. Poverty is measured using a headline indicator of the proportion of children in households with an income below 60 per cent of contemporary household median income before housing costs. This is in line with international best practice.

Statistics on the numbers of children living in poverty are not available at the constituency level. But the latest information for the North East Government Office Region shows that the proportion of children in poverty has fallen from 32 per cent. in 2000 to 28 per cent.[1]

Support for older people

Figures from 2000 relating to support for older people could be obtained at only disproportionate cost. However, figures are available from 1997 and these are shown as follows.

Since 1997 our strategy has been to target help on the poorest pensioners while providing a solid foundation of support for all.

This year we will be spending over £13 billion more on pensioners than if we had continued with policies that were in place in 1997. Around half of that money will go to the poorest third of pensioners.

In 1997 the poorest pensioners, who received income support, lived on £69 a week (£98 in today's prices). Today pension credit, which was introduced in 2003, means no pensioner needs to live on less than £130 a week, £198.45 for couples. As of May 2009 6,140 pensioners in Blaydon are benefiting from pension credit.

In 2007-08 there were 900,000 fewer pensioners living in relative poverty in UK compared to 1998-99 (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs).

Statistics on the proportion of pensioners living in relative poverty are not available at the constituency level. But the latest data for the North East Government Office Region show that the number of pensioners in poverty in fell from 27 per cent. to 19 per cent. since 20002.

Pensioners in the UK also benefit from a range of additional support such as the winter fuel payment which this winter is worth £250 for households aged between 60-79 and £400 for households aged 80 or over. These payments provide vital reassurance to older people that they can afford to turn up their heating during cold weather. Prior to winter 1997-98 less than £60 million was spent helping pensioners meet their fuel bills - this year the Government will be spending around £2.7 billion on winter fuel payments alone. In 2008-09 19,980 people aged 60 and over benefited from Winter fuel payments in Blaydon.

We have also taken steps to strengthen and protect the private pensions system to ensure people can continue to have confidence to save for their future through the establishment of the Pensions Protection Fund, the Financial Assistance Scheme and a more powerful and proactive pensions regulator.

The protection system ensures that, unlike in 1997, people are not left without a pension even in the event that their employer becomes insolvent.

In total 405 people in the North East Region are receiving compensation from the Pension Protection Fund (data not available at constituency level[3]).

Regional information about assistance payments received by members from the Financial Assistance Scheme could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Government have also taken forward a radical package of pension reforms in the Pensions Acts of 2007 and 2008 which will deliver a fairer and more generous state pension and extend the opportunity of workplace pension saving to millions, many for the first time.

The state pension reforms begin to come into effect from 2010 and will mean around three quarters of women reaching State Pension age in 2010 are expected to qualify for a full basic State Pension compared to half without reform.

Support for disabled people and carers

Since 2001, we have significantly extended and improved civil rights for disabled people in areas such as employment, education, access to goods and services and transport. Disabled people in Blaydon will have benefited from these improvements. The Welfare Reform Act 2009 contains powers to increase choice and control for disabled adults, including disabled parents who are entitled to state support, enabling them to choose how certain state support is used to meet their individual needs. This will be trail blazed in up to eight local authority areas from late 2010. Older and less well off carers have gained extra help through the provisions within the National Carers Strategy.

[1] Based on three-year averages and figures are rounded to the nearest percentage point or 100,000 children between 2000-01 to 200-03 and 200-06 to 2007-08.

[2] Based on three-year averages and changes are rounded to the nearest percentage point or 100,000 pensioners between 2000-01 to 2002-2003 and 2005-06 to 2007-08.

[3] Regional information about assistance payments received by members from the Financial Assistance Scheme could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will set out, with statistical information as closely related to Chorley constituency as possible, the effect on that constituency of the policies of her Department and its predecessor since 1997. [314238]

Jonathan Shaw: As the biggest delivery Department in the UK, DWP makes a difference to millions of people every day, helping them to lead safer, fairer and more rewarding lives that are free from poverty. The policies that we have introduced since 1997 have aimed to give people more choice and control over their lives. Through our welfare reform programme, we are committed to providing personalised support to everyone who needs it so they have the opportunity to get into and remain in work.

Support to find work

Through Jobcentre Plus, we are promoting work as the best form of welfare for people of working age. Since 1997, although the number of people unemployed in Chorley has increased by 38 per cent. to 1,900, the number unemployed for more than one year has decreased by 23 per cent. to 170. From May 1997 to May 2009 the number of lone parents claiming Income Support in Chorley has decreased by 43 per cent. to 690.

Our New Deal programmes have helped lone parents, the young unemployed, the long-term unemployed, disabled people, the over 50s and partners of unemployed people to move from benefit into work. Since their inception over 2.2 million people in Great Britain have found work with the support of the New Deal, and 2,810 have been helped in Chorley.

Support for Children

We introduced a target to halve child poverty by 2010-11 on the way to eradicating it by 2020. Poverty is measured using a headline indicator of the proportion of children in households with an income below 60 per cent. of contemporary household median income before housing costs. This is in line with international best practice.

Statistics on the numbers of children living in poverty are not available at the constituency level, but the latest information for the North West shows that the proportion of children in poverty fell from 32 per cent. to 27 per cent. since 1997.

Support for older people

Since 1997 our strategy has been to target extra help at the poorest pensioners while providing a solid foundation of support for all.

This year we will spend over £13 billion more on pensioners than if we had continued with the policies that were in place in 1997. Around half of that money will go to the poorest third of pensioners.

In 1997 the poorest pensioners, who received Income Support, lived on £69 a week (£98 in today's prices). Today Pension Credit, which was introduced in 2003, means no pensioner needs to live on less than £130 a week, £198.45 for couples. As of May 2009, 5,330 pensioners in Chorley are benefiting from Pension Credit. Statistics on the proportion of pensioners living in relative poverty are not available at the constituency level, but the latest information for the North West Government Office Region shows that the proportion of pensioners in poverty fell from 28 per cent. to 18 per cent. from 1997.

Pensioners in the UK also benefit from a range of additional support such as the winter fuel payment which this winter is worth £250 for households aged between 60 and 79 and £400 for households aged 80 or over. These payments provide vital reassurance to older people that they can afford to turn up their heating during cold weather. Prior to winter 1997-98 less than £60 million was spent helping pensioners meet their fuel bills—this year we will be spending around £2.7 billion on winter fuel payments alone. In 2008-09 22,320 people aged 60 and over benefited from winter fuel payments in Chorley.

We have also taken steps to strengthen and protect the private pensions system to ensure people can continue to have confidence to save for their future through the establishment of the Pensions Protection Fund, the Financial Assistance Scheme and a more powerful and proactive pensions regulator.

The protection system ensures that, unlike in 1997, people are not left without a pension even in the event that their employer becomes insolvent.

In total 1,965 people in the North West Government Office Region are receiving compensation from the Pension Protection Fund (data not available at constituency level).

We have also taken forward a radical package of pension reforms in the Pensions Acts of 2007 and 2008 which will deliver a fairer and more generous state pension and extend the opportunity of workplace pension saving to millions, many for the first time.

The state pension reforms begin to come into effect from 2010 and will mean around three quarters of women reaching state pension age in 2010 are expected to qualify for a full basic state pension compared to half without reform.

Support for disabled people and their carers

Since 2001, we have significantly extended and improved civil rights for disabled people in areas such as employment, education, access to goods and services and transport. Disabled people in Chorley will have benefited from these improvements. The Welfare Reform Act 2009 contains powers to increase choice and control for disabled adults, including disabled parents, enabling them to choose how certain state support is used to meet their individual needs. Older and less well-off carers are receiving extra help through the provisions within the National Carers Strategy.

Cleethorpes

● **Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Cleethorpes constituency, the effects on that constituency of her Department's policies since 1997. [315244]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP leads the Government's response to some of the biggest issues facing the country—welfare and pension reform—and are a key player in tackling child poverty.[1] As the biggest delivery department in the UK, DWP makes a difference to millions of people every day, helping them to lead safer, fairer and more rewarding lives that are free from poverty. We want to give people more choice and control over their lives and are committed to providing greater choice and personalised support to everyone who needs it so they have the opportunity to get into and remain in work. We believe that work works. Even in economically challenging times we know that work works for the most vulnerable and the disadvantaged.

Support to find work

Through Jobcentre Plus, we are promoting work as the best form of welfare for people of working age. Since 1997, the number of people unemployed in Cleethorpes has decreased by 5 per cent. to 2,655, and the number unemployed for more than one year has decreased by 54 per cent. to 295. From May 1997 to May 2009 the number of lone parents claiming income support in Cleethorpes has decreased by 25 per cent. to 980.

Our new deals have helped lone parents, the young unemployed, the long-term unemployed, disabled people, the over 50s and partners of unemployed people to move from benefit into work. Since their inception over 2.2 million people in Great Britain have found work with the support of the new deal, and 4,130 have been helped in Cleethorpes.

Support for children

We introduced a target to halve child poverty by 2010-11 on the way to eradicating it by 2020. Poverty is measured using a headline indicator of the proportion of children in households with an income below 60 per cent. of contemporary household median income before housing costs. This is in line with international best practice.

Statistics on the numbers of children living in poverty are not available at the constituency level. But the latest information for the Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region shows that the proportion of children in poverty has fallen from 32 per cent. in 1997 to 26 per cent.[2]

Support for older people

Since 1997 our strategy has been to target help on the poorest pensioners while providing a solid foundation of support for all.

This year we will be spending over £13 billion more on pensioners than if we had continued with the policies that were in place in 1997. Around half of that money will go to the poorest third of pensioners.

In 1997 the poorest pensioners, who received income support, lived on £69 a week (£98 in today's prices). Today pension credit, which was introduced in 2003, means no pensioner needs to live on less than £130 a week, £198.45 for couples. As of May 2009 6,410 pensioners in Cleethorpes are benefiting from pension credit.

In 2007-08 there were 900,000 fewer pensioners living in relative poverty in UK compared to 1998-99 (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs).

Statistics on the numbers of pensioners living in relative poverty are not available at the constituency level. But the latest data for the Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region show that the number of pensioners in poverty has fallen from 32 per cent. in 1997 to 18 per cent.[3]

Pensioners in the UK also benefit from a range of additional support such as the winter fuel payment which this winter is worth £250 for households aged between 60-79 and £400 for households aged 80 or over. These payments provide vital reassurance to older people that they can afford to turn up their heating during cold weather. Prior to winter 1997-98 less than £60 million was spent helping pensioners meet their fuel bills - this year we will be spending around £2.7 billion on winter fuel payments alone. In 2008-09 22,420 people aged 60 and over benefited from winter fuel payments in Cleethorpes.

We have also taken steps to strengthen and protect the private pensions system to ensure people can continue to have confidence to save for their future through the establishment of the Pensions Protection Fund, the Financial Assistance Scheme and a more powerful and proactive pensions regulator.

The protection system ensures that, unlike in 1997, people are not left without a pension even in the event that their employer becomes insolvent.

In total 2296 people in the Yorkshire and Humber region are receiving compensation from the Pension Protection Fund (data not available at constituency level).[4]

We have also taken forward a radical package of pension reforms in the Pensions Acts of 2007 and 2008 which will deliver a fairer and more generous state pension and extend the opportunity of workplace pension saving to millions, many for the first time.

The state pension reforms begin to come into effect from 2010 and will mean around three quarters of women reaching state pension age in 2010 are expected to qualify for a full basic state pension compared to half without reform.

Support for disabled people and carers

Since 2001, we have significantly extended and improved civil rights for disabled people in areas such as employment, education, access to goods and services and transport. Disabled people in Cleethorpes will have benefited from these improvements. The Welfare Reform Act 2009 contains powers to increase choice and control for disabled adults, including disabled parents who are entitled to state support, enabling them to choose how certain state support is used to meet their individual needs. This will be trail blazed in up to eight local authority areas from late 2010. Older and less well off carers have gained extra help through the provisions within the National Carers Strategy.

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[1] The Department for Work and Pensions was created in 2001 and so information relates to the department and its predecessors.

[2] Based on three-year averages and changes are rounded to the nearest percentage point or 100,000 children between 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and 2005-06 to 2007-08.

[3] Based on three-year averages and changes are rounded to the nearest percentage point or 100,000 pensioners between 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and 2005-06-2007-08.

[4] Regional information about assistance payments received by members from the Financial Assistance Scheme could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Council Tax Benefits and Housing Benefit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of her Department's expenditure on *(a)* council tax benefit and *(b)* housing benefit was paid to (i) tenants renting privately, (ii) tenants renting from a social landlord and (iii) homeowners in the latest period for which figures are available. [316252]

Helen Goodman: In 2007-08 it is estimated that 14 per cent. of council tax benefit expenditure was paid to private tenants, 58 per cent. to social tenants, and 28 per cent. to homeowners.

In 2008-09 one third of housing benefit expenditure was paid to tenants renting privately, and two thirds to tenants in the social rented sector, including local authority tenants.

Sources:

1. Housing benefit: Administrative and financial data from local authorities

2. Council tax benefit: National Statistics estimates of benefit take-up for 2007-08; available 2008-09 data from local authorities does not distinguish by tenure type.

Employers' Liability

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to announce her decision on the feasibility of a compulsory database for recording details for employers' liability insurance policies. [316832]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government published a consultation document 'Accessing Compensation—Supporting people who need to trace Employers' Liability Insurance' on 10 February 2010. This consultation document discusses the best way of setting up and administering such a compulsory database as well as consulting on an Employers' Liability Insurance Bureau. This would be a compensation fund of last resort and would ensure that more individuals who are unable to trace employers' liability insurance records would receive compensation.

Employment and Support Allowance: Medical Examinations

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what minimum professional qualification is required of those who carry out work capability assessments for her Department. [305266]

Jonathan Shaw: Atos healthcare doctors must be fully registered with the General Medical Council (GMC) without current or previous restrictions, conditions or warnings and hold a licence to practice from the date the GMC issues licences. In addition they must have at least three years post full registration (GMC or EEA—European Economic Area equivalent) experience as a minimum. Alternatively for non-EU graduates, three years post full registration experience in the doctors native country is required. In individual cases, solely at the discretion of the Chief Medical Advisor (CMA), the requirements that no conditions or warnings be attached to registration and that the doctor must have a minimum of three years post registration experience, may be waived.

Atos healthcare nurses must be fully registered (level 1) Registered General Nurses without current or previous restrictions or cautions with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. In addition they must have at least three years post full registration experience. In individual cases, solely at the discretion of the CMA, the requirements that no cautions be attached to registration and that the nurse must have a minimum of three years post registration experience, may be waived.

Atos healthcare doctors and nurses are specifically trained to provide decision making authorities with independent, accurate and authoritative advice and reports on the effects of disability.

The CMA approves Healthcare Professionals to carry out assessments. Approval is dependent on strict recruitment criteria, completion of a course of training in disability assessment medicine approved by the CMA and evidence of satisfactory performance.

Employment: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 257-58W, on employment: disabled, what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of disabled people employed (i) full-time and (ii) part-time in the (A) public and (B) private sector in each year since 1997. [317944]

Jonathan Shaw: There are currently 5,819,000 people of working age who declare a disability that corresponds to the Disability Discrimination Act's definition of disability. Of these, 2,783,000 (47.8 per cent.) are in employment. This has increased from 1,975,000 (39.7 per cent.) for the comparable quarter in 1998. Over the same period, the gap between the employment rate for disabled people and the overall employment rate has narrowed from 34.4 to 25.1 percentage points.

The information requested is in the tables.

Number of people with a Disability Discrimination Act disability in full and part-time employment in the public and private sector

	Private sector		Public sector	
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
1998	1,062,000	421,000	323,000	153,000
1999	1,216,000	463,000	340,000	164,000
2000	1,240,000	482,000	364,000	172,000
2001	1,294,000	474,000	383,000	192,000
2002	1,367,000	510,000	418,000	212,000
2003	1,377,000	532,000	432,000	206,000
2004	1,465,000	565,000	457,000	228,000
2005	1,433,000	518,000	464,000	233,000
2006	1,469,000	593,000	476,000	242,000
2007	1,492,000	592,000	483,000	247,000
2008	1,496,000	582,000	491,000	244,000
2009	1,413,000	582,000	529,000	237,000

Note:

The figures given do not add up to 2,783,000 because a small number of cases have missing values for either the full-time/part-time or the private sector/public sector variables.

Source:

Labour Force Survey, quarter 3, 1998 to 2009.

Proportion of working age people with a Disability Discrimination Act disability in full and part-time employment in the public and private sector as a percentage

	Private sector		Public sector	
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
1998	21	8	6	3
1999	23	9	7	3
2000	23	9	7	3
2001	23	9	7	3
2002	24	9	7	4
2003	25	9	8	4
2004	25	10	8	4
2005	25	9	8	4
2006	25	10	8	4
2007	26	10	8	4
2008	25	10	8	4
2009	24	10	9	4

Note:

Percentages do not add up to 100 per cent. because a small number of cases have missing values for either the full-time/part-time or the private sector/public sector variables.

Source:

Labour Force Survey, quarter 3, 1998 to 2009.

Proportion of employed people with a Disability Discrimination Act disability in full and part-time employment in the public and private sector as a percentage

	Private sector		Public sector	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
1998	54	21	16	8
1999	56	21	16	8
2000	55	21	16	8
2001	55	20	16	8
2002	55	20	17	8
2003	54	21	17	8
2004	54	21	17	8
2005	54	20	18	9
2006	53	21	17	9
2007	53	21	17	9
2008	53	21	17	9
2009	51	21	19	9

Note:
Percentages do not add up to 100 per cent. because a small number of cases have missing values for either the full-time/part-time or the private sector/public sector variables.
Source:
Labour Force Survey, quarter 3, 1998 to 2009

European Regional Development Fund

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much employment-related funding she expects each region to receive from the European Regional Development Programmes on a per capita basis in the period 2007 to 2013; and what information her Department holds on the distribution of such funds on a per capita basis to other EU member States in that period for benchmarking purposes. [315671]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

As a general rule, employment-related measures are supported through the European Social Fund (ESF), although a small amount of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programmes may also be spent on employment-related measures. However, figures for ERDF employment-related measures for the regions and counties of the UK and the other member states are not readily available and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

ERDF expenditure is focused on research, innovation, business development, environmental protection and infrastructure investment.

Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Feltham and Heston constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to her Department's policies since 1997. [316677]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP leads the Government's response to some of the biggest issues facing the country—welfare and pension reform—and are a key player in tackling child poverty[1]. As the biggest delivery Department in the UK, DWP makes a difference to millions of people every day, helping them to lead safer, fairer and more rewarding lives that are free from poverty. We want to give people more choice and control over their lives and are committed to providing greater choice and personalised support to everyone who needs it so they have the opportunity to get into and remain in work. We believe that work works. Even in economically challenging times we know that work works for the most vulnerable and the disadvantaged."

Support to find work

Through Jobcentre Plus, we are promoting work as the best form of welfare for people of working age. Since 1997, although the number of people unemployed in Feltham and Heston has increased by 32 per cent. to 2,832, the number unemployed for more than one year has decreased by 86 per cent. to 75. From May 1997 to May 2009 the number of lone parents claiming income support in Feltham and Heston has decreased by 23 per cent. to 2,230.

Our New Deals have helped lone parents, the young unemployed, the long-term unemployed, disabled people, the over 50s and partners of unemployed people to move from benefit into work. Since their inception over 2.2 million people in Great Britain have found work with the support of the New Deal, and 3,730 have been helped in Feltham and Heston.

Support for children

We introduced a target to halve child poverty by 2010-11 on the way to eradicating it by 2020. Poverty is measured using a headline indicator of the proportion of children in households with an income below 60 per cent. of contemporary household median income before housing costs. This is in line with international best practice.

Statistics on the numbers of children living in poverty are not available at the constituency level, but the latest information for the outer London area shows that the proportion of children in poverty is the same now, at 20 per cent. as it was in 1997.[2]

Support for older people

Since 1997 our strategy has been to target help on the poorest pensioners while providing a solid foundation of support for all.

This year we will be spending over£13 billion more on pensioners than if we had continued with the policies that were in place in 1997. Around half of that money will go to the poorest third of pensioners.

In 1997 the poorest pensioners, who received income support, lived on £69 a week (£98 in today's prices). Today pension credit, which was introduced in 2003, means no pensioner needs to live on less than £130 a week, £198.45 for couples. As of May 2009, 5,180 pensioners in Feltham and Heston are benefiting from pension credit.

In 2007-08 there were 900,000 fewer pensioners living in relative poverty in UK compared to 1998-99 (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs).

Statistics on the proportion of pensioners living in relative poverty are not available at the constituency level. But the latest data for the outer London area Government office region show that the number of pensioners in poverty (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs) fell from 26 per cent. to 19 per cent. since 1997[3].

Pensioners in the UK also benefit from a range of additional support such as the winter fuel payment which this winter is worth £250 for households with someone aged between 60-79 and £400 for households with someone aged 80 or over. These payments provide vital reassurance to older people that they can afford to turn up their heating during cold weather. Prior to winter 1997-98 less than £60 million was spent helping pensioners meet their fuel bills—this year we will be spending around £2.7 billion on winter fuel payments alone. In 2008-09, 15,490 people aged 60 and over benefited from winter fuel payments in Feltham and Heston.

We have also taken steps to strengthen and protect the private pensions system to ensure people can continue to have confidence to save for their future through the establishment of the Pensions Protection Fund, the Financial Assistance Scheme and a more powerful and proactive pensions regulator.

The protection system ensures that, unlike in 1997, people aren't left without a pension even in the event that their employer becomes insolvent.

In total 473 people in the London region are receiving compensation from the Pension Protection Fund (data not available at constituency level).[4]

We have also taken forward a radical package of pension reforms in the Pensions Acts of 2007 and 2008 which will deliver a fairer and more generous state pension and extend the opportunity of workplace pension saving to millions, many for the first time.

The state pension reforms begin to come into effect from 2010 and will mean around three quarters of women reaching state pension age in 2010 are expected to qualify for a full basic state pension compared to half without reform.

Support for disabled people and carers

Since 2001, we have significantly extended and improved civil rights for disabled people in areas such as employment, education, access to goods and services and transport. Disabled people in Feltham and Heston will have benefited from these improvements. The Welfare Reform Act 2009 contains powers to increase choice and control for disabled adults, including disabled parents who are entitled to state support, enabling them to choose how certain state support is used to meet their individual needs. This will be trailblazed in up to eight local authority areas from late 2010. Older and less well off carers have gained extra help through the provisions within the National Carers Strategy.

Future Jobs Fund

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which local authorities have taken on more staff under the Future Jobs Fund; how many such staff have been employed by each such local authority; and how many such staff each local authority plans to employ in the next three years. [315106]

Jim Knight: We cannot comment publicly on job starts ahead of publication of the confirmed official statistical data, which is due in spring 2010. It is not possible to estimate how many staff each local authority plans to employ in the next three years as this is not information we require as part of the Future Jobs Fund bid process.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance her Department provides to local authorities on the role of social enterprises in the Future Jobs Fund. [315109]

Jim Knight: The future jobs fund provides an excellent opportunity for social enterprises and the third sector to create jobs for young people, and this is reflected in the guidance available on the website available to all potential bidders. While my Department does not provide specific guidance to local authorities on the role of social enterprises in the future jobs fund, there are many examples of authorities working closely with social enterprises to create new jobs.

Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Hemsworth constituency, the effects on Hemsworth of her Department's policies and actions since 2000. [316303]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP leads the Government's response to some of the biggest issues facing the country—welfare and pension reform—and are a key player in tackling child poverty[1]. As the biggest delivery Department in the UK, DWP makes a difference to millions of people every day, helping them to lead safer, fairer and more rewarding lives that are free from poverty. We want to give people more choice and control over their lives and are committed to providing greater choice and personalised support to everyone who needs it so they have the opportunity to get into and remain in work. We believe that work works. Even in economically challenging times we know that work works for the most vulnerable and the disadvantaged.

Support to find work

Through Jobcentre Plus, we are promoting work as the best form of welfare for people of working age. Since 2000, although the number of people unemployed in Hemsworth has increased by 42 per cent. to 2,164, the number unemployed for more than one year has decreased by 10 per cent. to 220. From May 2000 to May 2009 the number of lone parents claiming income support in Hemsworth has decreased by 29 per cent. to 1,130.

Our New Deals have helped lone parents, the young unemployed, the long-term unemployed, disabled people, the over 50s and partners of unemployed people to move from benefit into work. Since their inception over 2.2 million people in Great Britain have found work with the support of the New Deal, and 3,420 have been helped in Hemsworth.

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[1] The Department for Work and Pensions was created in 2001 and so information relates to the Department and its predecessors.

[2] Based on three-year averages, and changes are rounded to the nearest percentage point or 100,000 children between 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and 2005-06 to 2007-08.

[3] Based on three-year averages, and changes are rounded to the nearest percentage point or 100,000 pensioners between 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and 2005-06 to 2007-08.

[4] Regional information about assistance payments received by members from the Financial Assistance Scheme could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Support for children

We introduced a target to halve child poverty by 2010-11 on the way to eradicating it by 2020. Poverty is measured using a headline indicator of the proportion of children in households with an income below 60 per cent. of contemporary household median income before housing costs. This is in line with international best practice.

Statistics on the numbers of children living in poverty are not available at the constituency level, but the latest information for the Yorkshire and Humber area shows that the proportion of children in poverty fell from 27 per cent. to 26 per cent. since 2000.

Support for older people

Figures from 2000 relating to support for older people could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, figures are available from 1997 and these are as follows.

Since 1997 our strategy has been to target help on the poorest pensioners while providing a solid foundation of support for all.

This year we will be spending over£13 billion more on pensioners than if we had continued with the policies that were in place in 1997. Around half of that money will go to the poorest third of pensioners.

In 1997 the poorest pensioners, who received income support, lived on £69 a week (£98 in today's prices). Today pension credit, which was introduced in 2003, means no pensioner needs to live on less than £130 a week, £198.45 for couples. As of May 2009 5,760 pensioners in Hemsworth are benefiting from pension credit.

In 2007-08 there were 900,000 fewer pensioners living in relative poverty in UK compared to 1998-99 (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs).

Statistics on the proportion of pensioners living in relative poverty are not available at the constituency level. But the latest data for the Yorkshire and Humber Government office region show that the number of pensioners in poverty has fallen from 26 per cent. in 2000 to 18 per cent[2].

Pensioners in the UK also benefit from a range of additional support such as the winter fuel payment which this winter is worth £250 for households with someone aged between 60-79 and £400 for households with someone aged 80 or over. These payments provide vital reassurance to older people so that they can afford to turn up their heating during cold weather. Prior to winter 1997-98 less than £60 million was spent helping pensioners meet their fuel bills—this year we will be spending around £2.7 billion on winter fuel payments alone. In 2008-09 19,740 people aged 60 and over benefited from winter fuel payments in Hemsworth.

We have also taken steps to strengthen and protect the private pensions system to ensure people can continue to have confidence to save for their future through the establishment of the Pensions Protection Fund, the Financial Assistance Scheme and a more powerful and proactive pensions regulator.

The protection system ensures that, unlike in 1997, people are not left without a pension even in the event that their employer becomes insolvent.

In total 2,296 people in the Yorkshire and Humber region are receiving compensation from the Pension Protection Fund (data not available at constituency level)[3].

We have also taken forward a radical package of pension reforms in the Pensions Acts of 2007 and 2008 which will deliver a fairer and more generous state pension and extend the opportunity of workplace pension saving to millions, many for the first time.

The state pension reforms begin to come into effect from 2010 and will mean around three quarters of women reaching state pension age in 2010 are expected to qualify for a full basic state pension compared to half without reform.

Support for disabled people and carers

Since 2001, we have significantly extended and improved civil rights for disabled people in areas such as employment, education, access to goods and services and transport. Disabled people in Hemsworth will have benefited from these improvements. The Welfare Reform Act 2009 contains powers to increase choice and control for disabled adults, including disabled parents who are entitled to state support, enabling them to choose how certain state support is used to meet their individual needs. This will be trailblazed in up to eight local authority areas from late 2010. Older and less well off carers have gained extra help through the provisions within the National Carers Strategy.

[1] The Department for Work and Pensions was created in 2001 and so information relates to the Department and its predecessors.

[2] Based on three-year averages and changes are rounded to the nearest percentage point or 100,000 pensioners between 2000-01 to 2002-03 and 2005-06 to 2007-08.

[3] Regional information about assistance payments received by members from the Financial Assistance Scheme could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Housing Benefit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on housing benefit at 2009-10 prices in each year since 1997. [316237]

Helen Goodman: The available information is in the following table.

Housing benefit expenditure in Great Britain

	£ million, 2009-10 prices
1997-98	14,837
1998-99	14,386
1999-2000	14,107
2000-01	14,047
2001-02	14,265
2002-03	15,069
2003-04	14,314
2004-05	14,847
2005-06	15,429
2006-07	15,966
2007-08	16,451
2008-09	17,447

Notes:

1. Expenditure figures include all housing benefit expenditure whether funded by central or local government.
2. Real terms figures are in 2009-10 prices, and derived using the 2009 pre-Budget report GDP deflator.
3. Historic and forecast expenditure for housing benefit can be found on the internet at http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/medium_term.asp

Source:

Local authority expenditure data

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many former miners have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been granted industrial injuries benefit for miners' knee; and what have been the five most frequent reasons for refusing applications. [310922]

Jonathan Shaw: Since the addition of osteoarthritis of the knee to the list of prescribed industrial diseases on 13 July 2009, 33,602 claims have been received.

13,376 claims have been processed of which 5239 have received an award of, or an increase of, industrial injuries disablement benefit.

Information is collected about the three most frequent reasons for refusing applications. These are as follows:

3,420 were diagnosed with the disease but the assessment was less than 14 per cent., which means IIDB is not payable;

2,344 did not satisfy the occupational criteria;

2,189 did not have the disease diagnosed.

This information is based on an informal count by the Jobcentre Plus offices dealing with industrial injuries disablement benefit. We are looking into arrangements to publish this information as official statistics.

My colleague, Lord McKenzie of Luton, had a very helpful meeting with the National Union of Mineworkers on 14 January to discuss how the scheme is operating in relation to osteoarthritis of the knee claims, in particular the medical assessment process, and to identify ways to improve its administration. Officials will be having further meetings with the mining unions to discuss this work in more detail.

Jobcentre Plus: Finance

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what budget for Jobcentre Plus outreach work is in 2009-10; and what the budget will be in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12 and *(c)* 2012-13. [313160]

Jonathan Shaw: Jobcentre Plus has locations across the country providing outreach services. These meet the needs of customers and communities, reaching the most disadvantaged and vulnerable in society. Outreach work is not an activity in its own right but covers a variety of initiatives that form part of the core services delivered to our customers and as such there is no specific budget allocated for outreach work alone.

Jobcentre Plus: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what payments *(a)* Jobcentre Plus and *(b)* the Pension Protection Fund has made to Fishburn Hedges in the last 12 months for which figures are available; for what purpose; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the contracts under which such payments have been made. [305146]

Jim Knight: I can confirm that in the last 12 months Jobcentre Plus has spent £49,957 with Fishburn Hedges which relates to fees associated with ESA public relations activity.

The chief executive of the Pension Protection Fund will write to the hon. Member in relation to the second part of his question as this is a matter for him.

Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to North-East Milton Keynes constituency, the effects on Milton Keynes of the policies and actions of her Department and its predecessors since 1997. [316038]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP lead the Government's response to some of the biggest issues facing the country—welfare and pension reform—and are a key player in tackling child poverty[1]. As the biggest delivery department in the UK, DWP makes a difference to millions of people every day, helping them to lead safer, fairer and more rewarding lives that are free from poverty. We want to give people more choice and control over their lives and are committed to providing greater choice and personalised support to everyone who needs it so they have the opportunity to get into and remain in work. We believe that work works. Even in economically challenging times we know that work works for the most vulnerable and the disadvantaged.

Support to find work

Through Jobcentre Plus, we are promoting work as the best form of welfare for people of working age. Since 1997, the number of people unemployed in North-East Milton Keynes has increased by 153 per cent. to 3,093, and the number unemployed for more than one year has increased by 94 per cent. to 475. From May 1997 to May 2009 the number of lone parents claiming Income Support in North-East Milton Keynes has decreased by 6 per cent. to 1,310.

Our New Deals have helped lone parents, the young unemployed, the long-term unemployed, disabled people, the over 50s and partners of unemployed people to move from benefit into work. Since their inception over 2.2 million people in Great Britain have found work with the support of the New Deal, and 2,560 have been helped in North-East Milton Keynes.

Support for children

We introduced a target to halve child poverty by 2010-11 on the way to eradicating it by 2020. Poverty is measured using a headline indicator of the proportion of children in households with an income below 60 per cent. of contemporary household median income before housing costs. This is in line with international best practice.

Statistics on the numbers of children living in poverty are not available at the constituency level, but the latest information for the South East Government Office Region shows that the proportion of children in poverty has fallen from 16 per cent. to 15 per cent. since 1997.

Support for older people

Since 1997 our strategy has been to target help on the poorest pensioners while providing a solid foundation of support for all.

This year we will be spending over £13 billion more on pensioners than if we had continued with the policies that were in place in 199. Around half of that money will go to the poorest third of pensioners.

In 1997 the poorest pensioners, who received income support, lived on £69 a week (£98 in today's prices). Today pension credit, which was introduced in 2003, means no pensioner needs to live on less than £130 a week, £198.45 for couples. As of May 2009 3,900 pensioners in North-East Milton Keynes are benefiting from pension credit.

In 2007-08 there were 900,000 fewer pensioners living in relative poverty in UK compared to 1998-99 (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs).

Statistics on the proportion of pensioners living in relative poverty are not available at the constituency level. But the latest data for the South East Government Office Region show that the number of pensioners in poverty (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs) has fallen from 26 per cent. in 1997 to 16 per cent[2].

Pensioners in the UK also benefit from a range of additional support such as the Winter Fuel Payment which this winter is worth £250 for households with someone aged between 60-79 and £400 for households with someone aged 80 or over. These payments provide vital reassurance to older people that they can afford to turn up their heating during cold weather. Prior to winter 1997-98 less than £60 million was spent helping pensioners meet their fuel bills - this year we will be spending around £2.7 billion on winter fuel payments alone. In 2008-09 16,810 people aged 60 and over benefited from winter fuel payments in North-East Milton Keynes.

We have also taken steps to strengthen and protect the private pensions system to ensure people can continue to have confidence to save for their future through the establishment of the Pensions Protection Fund, the Financial Assistance Scheme and a more powerful and proactive pensions regulator.

The protection system ensures that, unlike in 1997, people are not left without a pension even in the event that their employer becomes insolvent.

In total 733 people in the South East are receiving compensation from the Pension Protection Fund (data not available at constituency level[3]).

We have also taken forward a radical package of pension reforms in the Pensions Acts of 2007 and 2008 which will deliver a fairer and more generous state pension and extend the opportunity of workplace pension saving to millions, many for the first time.

The state pension reforms begin to come into effect from 2010 and will mean around three quarters of women reaching state pension age in 2010 are expected to qualify for a full basic state pension compared to half without reform.

Support for disabled people and carers

Since 2001, we have significantly extended and improved civil rights for disabled people in areas such as employment, education, access to goods and services and transport. Disabled people in North-East Milton Keynes will have benefited from these improvements. The Welfare Reform Act 2009 contains powers to increase choice and control for disabled adults, including disabled parents who are entitled to state support, enabling them to choose how certain state support is used to meet their individual needs. This will be trail blazed in up to eight local authority areas from late 2010. Older and less well off carers have gained extra help through the provisions within the national carers strategy.

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[1] The Department for Work and Pensions was created in 2001 and so information relates to the department and its predecessors.

[2] Based on three-year averages and changes are rounded to the nearest percentage point or 100,000 pensioners between 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and 2005-06 to 2007-08.

[3] Regional information about assistance payments received by members from the Financial Assistance Scheme could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Motability

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the motability contract for electric-powered vehicles managed by her Department was subject to external tender; and what the monetary value of the current contract is. [315945]

Jonathan Shaw: Motability is an independent charitable company and is responsible for the administration of the Motability Scheme. They have agreed to write separately to the hon. Gentleman on this matter.

Pathways to Work

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what profiling system the Department currently uses to assess how far from the job market a claimant for *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance who is referred to a Pathways to Work provider is. [315717]

Jonathan Shaw: While we do not have an electronic profiling system, people on incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance take part in interviews with personal advisers who help customers identify appropriate job goals and move back into work as quickly as possible, depending on their individual circumstances.

For employment and support allowance customers, the discussion between personal advisers and claimants is informed by the report provided following a work-focused health-related assessment. This assessment provides the opportunity for individuals to explore their aspirations and perceptions about engaging in work with a health care professional. During the assessment customers are able to identify the health-related challenges preventing them from moving into work, and the interventions or types of work-place adaptation, which might help them to overcome these challenges.

As set out in the 2009 White Paper "Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment", we are currently trialling a profiling tool for jobseekers to help target support. If successful we will consider using this to support advisers' judgment.

Pensioners: Income

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate her Department has made of the number of *(a)* single pensioner and *(b)* pensioner couple households living below the guaranteed minimum income for pensioners. [316653]

Angela Eagle: The information that is available is shown in the following table. Information surrounding pensioners' incomes is most commonly given in benefit unit terms. The latest available information on pensioner incomes is for 2007-08 and figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.

In 2007-08, the latest year for which data is available, the Pension Credit Guarantee Credit amounts were £119.05 and £181.70, for singles and couples respectively.

Table 1: Number of pensioner units living with income below the minimum income guarantee (at 2007-08 levels)

	Number
Pensioner singles	400,000
Pensioner couples	200,000

Notes: 1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000. 2. Pensioner units are either a single pensioner over state pension age (65 and over for men or 60 and over for women) or pensioner couples. Pensioner couples are couples where at least one member is over state pension age. 3. Income is calculated as the benefit unit's gross income. 4. Based on FRS survey data and as such subject to a degree of sampling and non-sampling error. *Source:* Pensioners' Incomes Series (derived from the Family Resources Survey).

Pensioners: Poverty

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether her Department has commissioned recent research into the material deprivation of pensioner households. [316530]

Angela Eagle: The latest published research on material deprivation of pensioner households reported on a programme of work to develop new survey questions for DWP's Family Resources Survey which were introduced in May 2008. The research identified problems in measuring material deprivation among older people and suggested a new question structure to address these problems. Details of this research are available at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/WP54.pdf

and

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/WP55.pdf

Information from the survey will be included in Households Below Average Incomes 2008-09, due to be published in April/May 2010, reflecting responses to the 15 individual questions relating to material deprivation. We are currently in the process of commissioning research to assess options for combining these responses into an overall indicator of the material deprivation of pensioner households.

Pensions: Senior Civil Servants

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether bonus payments paid to senior civil servants form part of their remuneration for pension purposes. [315507]

Ms Butler: I have been asked to reply.

Civil servants, including senior civil servants, have the choice of a pension provided under the rules of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme or an employer contribution to a stakeholder pension. The general principle is that bonus payments are not normally pensionable.

Sandwell

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to the borough of Sandwell, the effects on that borough of changes to the policies of her Department and its predecessors since 1997. [316476]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP lead the Government's response to some of the biggest issues facing the country—welfare and pension reform—and are a key player in tackling child poverty[1]. As the biggest delivery Department in the UK, DWP makes a difference to millions of people every day, helping them to lead safer, fairer and more rewarding lives that are free from poverty. We want to give people more choice and control over their lives and are committed to providing greater choice and personalised support to everyone who needs it so they have the opportunity to get into and remain in work. We believe that work works. Even in economically challenging times we know that work works for the most vulnerable and the disadvantaged.

Support to find work

Through Jobcentre Plus, we are promoting work as the best form of welfare for people of working age. Since 1997, although the number of people unemployed in West Bromwich East has increased by 37 per cent. to 3,660, the number unemployed for more than one year has decreased by 24 per cent. to 665. From May 1997 to May 2009 the number of lone parents claiming income support in West Bromwich, East has decreased by 2 per cent. to 1,370.

Our new deals have helped lone parents, the young unemployed, the long-term unemployed, disabled people, the over-50s and partners of unemployed people to move from benefit into work. Since their inception over 2.2 million people in Great Britain have found work with the support of the new deal, and 16,370 have been helped in the Sandwell local authority area.

Support for children

We introduced a target to halve child poverty by 2010-11 on the way to eradicating it by 2020. Poverty is measured using a headline indicator of the proportion of children in households with an income below 60 per cent. of contemporary household median income before housing costs. This is in line with international best practice.

Statistics on the number of children living in poverty are not available at the constituency level, but the latest information for the West Midlands area shows that the proportion of children in poverty fell from 28 per cent. to 27 per cent. since 1997.

Support for older people

Since 1997, our strategy has been to target help on the poorest pensioners while providing a solid foundation of support for all.

This year we will be spending over £13 billion more on pensioners than if we had continued with the policies that were in place in 1997. Around half of that money will go to the poorest third of pensioners.

In 1997, the poorest pensioners who received income support, lived on £69 a week (£98 in today's prices). Today pension credit, which was introduced in 2003, means no pensioner needs to live on less than £130 a week, £198.45 for couples. As of May 2009, 26,720 pensioners in the borough of Sandwell are benefiting from pension credit.

In 2007-08 there were 900,000 fewer pensioners living in relative poverty in UK compared to 1998-99 (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs).

Statistics on proportion of pensioners living in relative poverty are not available at the constituency level. But the latest data for the West Midlands Government Office Region show that the number of pensioners in poverty has fallen from 28 per cent. in 1997 to 18 per cent[2].

Pensioners in the UK also benefit from a range of additional support such as the winter fuel payment which this winter is worth £250 for households with someone aged between 60-79 and £400 for households with someone aged 80 or over. These payments provide vital reassurance to older people so that they can afford to turn up their heating during cold weather. Prior to winter 1997-98, less than £60 million was spent helping pensioners meet their fuel bills—this year we will be spending around £2.7 billion on winter fuel payments alone. In 2008-09, 55,210 people aged 60 and over benefited from winter fuel payments in the borough of Sandwell.

We have also taken steps to strengthen and protect the private pensions system to ensure people can continue to have confidence to save for their future through the establishment of the Pensions Protection Fund, the Financial Assistance Scheme and a more powerful and proactive pensions regulator.

The protection system ensures that, unlike in 1997, people are not left without a pension even in the event that their employer becomes insolvent.

In total 4,709 people in the West Midlands region are receiving compensation from the Pension Protection Fund (data not available at constituency level)[3].

We have also taken forward a radical package of pension reforms in the Pensions Acts of 2007 and 2008 which will deliver a fairer and more generous state pension and extend the opportunity of workplace pension saving to millions, many for the first time.

The state pension reforms begin to come into effect from 2010 and will mean around three quarters of women reaching state pension age in 2010 are expected to qualify for a full basic state pension compared to half without reform.

Support for disabled people and carers

Since 2001, we have significantly extended and improved civil rights for disabled people in areas such as employment, education, access to goods and services and transport. Disabled people in Sandwell will have benefited from these improvements. The Welfare Reform Act 2009 contains powers to increase choice and control for disabled adults, including disabled parents who are entitled to state support, enabling them to choose how certain state support is used to meet their individual needs. This will be trail-blazed in up to eight local authority areas from late 2010.

Older and less well-off carers have gained extra help through the provisions within the National Carers Strategy.

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[1] The Department for Work and Pensions was created in 2001 and so information relates to the Department and its predecessors.

[2] Based on three-year averages and changes are rounded to the nearest percentage point or 100,000 pensioners between 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and 2005-06 to 2007-08.

[3] Regional information about assistance payments received by members from the Financial Assistance Scheme could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Second State Pension

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on the second state pension in 2009-10; how much such expenditure was on entitlements accrued during *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2006-07; and if she will make a statement. [301008]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 23 November 2009]*: Public expenditure on state second pension/state earnings-related pension scheme in 2009-10 is expected to be £13,200 million.

The following table shows the planned expenditure on state second pension entitlements accrued during *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2006-07.

Financial year, cash terms

Year second state pension entitlements accrued	*Planned expenditure (£ million) in 2009-10*
2008-09	20
2007-08	60
2006-07	100

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10 million.

2. Forecasts of second state pension/state earnings related pension scheme

are based on the pre-Budget report 2009 forecasts.

Published expenditure tables can found at the following link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/medium_term.asp

3. Updated forecasts are scheduled to be published at Budget 2010.

4. Accrued entitlement after 2002 only relates to second state pension and does not include the state earnings related pension scheme.

5. The table shows that there are more cohorts in the later years that have accrued entitlement. Planned expenditure in 2009-10 of entitlements accrued in 2008-09 relates to men currently aged 65 and women aged 60. Planned expenditure in 2009-10 of entitlement accrued in 2007-08 relates to men currently aged 65, 66 and women aged 60, 61. Planned expenditure in 2009-10 of entitlement accrued in 2006-07 relates to men currently aged 65, 66, 67 and women aged 60, 61, 62.

Source:

Strategy Directorate modelling.

Slough

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to the Slough constituency, the effects on Slough of her Department's policies and actions since 2000. [311978]

Jonathan Shaw: As the biggest delivery department in the UK, DWP makes a difference to millions of people every day, helping them to lead safer, fairer and more rewarding lives that are free from poverty. The policies that we have introduced since 1997 have aimed to give people more choice and control over their lives. Through our welfare reform programme, we are committed to providing personalised support to everyone who needs it so they have the opportunity to get into and remain in work.

Support to find work

Through Jobcentre Plus, we are promoting work as the best form of welfare for people of working age. Since 1997, although the number of people unemployed in Slough has increased by 39 per cent. to 3,028, the number unemployed for more than one year has decreased by 54 per cent. to 270. From May 1997 to May 2009 the number of lone parents claiming income support in Slough has decreased by 21 per cent. to 1,740.

Our New Deal programmes have helped lone parents, the young unemployed, the long-term unemployed, disabled people, the over 50s and partners of unemployed people to move from benefit into work. Since their inception over 2.2 million people in Great Britain have found work with the support of the New Deal and 3,200 have been helped in Slough.

Support for children

We introduced a target to halve child poverty by 2010-11 on the way to eradicating it by 2020. Poverty is measured using a headline indicator of the proportion of children in households with an income below 60 per cent. of contemporary household median income before housing costs. This is in line with international best practice.

Statistics on the number of children living in poverty are not available at the constituency level, but the latest information for the South East Government Office Region shows that the proportion of children in poverty rose from 14 per cent. to 15 per cent. since 2000.

Support for older people

Since 1997 our strategy has been to target extra help at the poorest pensioners while providing a solid foundation of support for all.

This year we will spend over £13 billion more on pensioners than if we had continued with the policies that were in place in 1997. Around half of that money will go to the poorest third of pensioners.

In 1997 the poorest pensioners, who received income support, lived on £69 a week (£98 in today's prices). Today pension credit, which was introduced in 2003, means no pensioner needs to live on less than £130 a week, £198.45 for couples. As of May 2009, 4,060 pensioners in Slough are receiving pension credit.

In 2007-08 there were 900,000 fewer pensioners living in relative poverty in the UK compared to 1998-99 (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs). Statistics on the number of pensioners living in relative poverty are not available at the constituency level, but the latest information for the South East Government Office Region shows that poverty has fallen from 23 per cent. to 16 per cent. since 2000.

Pensioners in the UK also benefit from a range of additional support such as the Winter Fuel Payment which this winter is worth £250 for households aged between 60-79 and £400 for households aged 80 or over. These payments provide vital reassurance to older people that they can afford to turn up their heating during cold weather. Prior to winter 1997-98 less than £60 million was spent helping pensioners meet their fuel bills—this year we will be spending around £2.7 billion on Winter Fuel Payments alone. In 2008-09 14,090 people aged 60 and over benefited from Winter Fuel Payments in Slough.

We have also taken steps to strengthen and protect the private pensions system to ensure people can continue to have confidence to save for their future through the establishment of the Pensions Protection Fund, the Financial Assistance Scheme and a more powerful and proactive pensions regulator.

The protection system ensures that, unlike in 1997, people are not left without a pension even in the event that their employer becomes insolvent.

In total 716 people in the South East Region are receiving compensation from the Pension Protection Fund (data not available at the constituency level).

We have also taken forward a radical package of pension reforms in the Pensions Acts of 2007 and 2008 which will deliver a fairer and more generous state pension and extend the opportunity of workplace pension saving to millions, many for the first time.

The state pension reforms begin to come into effect from 2010 and will mean around three quarters of women reaching state pension age in 2010 are expected to qualify for a full basic state pension compared to half without reform.

Support for disabled people and carers

Since 2001, we have significantly extended and improved civil rights for disabled people in areas such as employment, education, access to goods and services and transport. Disabled people in Slough will have benefited from these improvements. The Welfare Reform Act 2009 contains powers to increase choice and control for disabled adults, including disabled parents, enabling them to choose how certain state support is used to meet their individual needs. Older and less well-off carers are receiving extra help through the provisions within the National Carers Strategy.

Social Security Benefits: Debts

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 578W, on social security benefits: debts, in respect of which Jobcentre Plus district is each of the 10 largest debts owed to the Department. [317169]

Helen Goodman: The Department treats all personal data as confidential. We take extremely seriously our duty to protect customer confidentiality. We believe the release of this information could lead to confidentiality being compromised; so breaching our duty of care to our customers.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in England and Wales have been prosecuted for benefit fraud on *(a)* more than one occasion and *(b)* more than two occasions in each of the last three years. [314575]

Helen Goodman: Information on the number of people in England and Wales prosecuted for benefit fraud on more than one occasion and more than two occasions in each of the last three years is not available.

Information is available for convictions during 2006-07 in cases where benefit fraud has been committed on more than one or more than two occasions. The available information is in the table:

	Number
Number of people convicted where benefit fraud committed on:	
more than one occasion	104
more than two occasions	0

Options for collating this data more systematically are kept under review subject to cost effectiveness.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in which countries persons living abroad who are identified as having perpetrated benefit fraud reside. [316365]

Jonathan Shaw: UK nationals can, in certain circumstances, continue to receive some benefits while abroad, others will cease immediately. The Department for Work and Pensions is reminding people in the latest targeting fraud campaign and in leaflets of their responsibility to tell us if they are going abroad.

In addition we are increasing the number of countries with which we have arrangements for closer working and data sharing and employing Department for Work and Pensions officers based abroad.

Recent investigations have identified evidence of fraud in 51 cases in the following countries:

Australia
Austria
Bahrain
Bulgaria
Canada
Cyprus
Eire
France
Greece
Holland
India
Italy
New Zealand
Pakistan
Portugal
South Africa
Spain
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
USA

Thanet

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to South Thanet constituency, the effects on South Thanet of her Department's policies and actions since 2000. [315632]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP leads the Government's response to some of the biggest issues facing the country—welfare and pension reform—and are a key player in tackling child poverty[1]. As the biggest delivery department in the UK, DWP makes a difference to millions of people every day, helping them to lead safer, fairer and more rewarding lives that are free from poverty. We want to give people more choice and control over their lives and are committed to providing greater choice and personalised support to everyone who needs it so they have the opportunity to get into and remain in work. We believe that work works. Even in economically challenging times we know that work works for the most vulnerable and the disadvantaged.

Support to find work

Through Jobcentre Plus, we are promoting work as the best form of welfare for people of working age. Since 2000, although the number of people unemployed in South Thanet has increased by 31 per cent. to 2,153, the number unemployed for more than one year has decreased by 21 per cent. to 280. From May 2000 to May 2009 the number of lone parents claiming income support in South Thanet has decreased by 24 per cent. to 1,070.

Our new deals have helped lone parents, the young unemployed, the long-term unemployed, disabled people, the over 50s and partners of unemployed people to move from benefit into work. Since their inception over 2.2 million people in Great Britain have found work with the support of the new deal, and 3,640 have been helped in South Thanet.

Support for children

We introduced a target to halve child poverty by 2010-11 on the way to eradicating it by 2020. Poverty is measured using a headline indicator of the proportion of children in households with an income below 60 per cent. of contemporary household median income before housing costs. This is in line with international best practice.

Statistics on the numbers of children living in poverty are not available at the constituency level. But the latest information for the south east Government office region shows that the proportion of children in poverty has risen from 14 per cent. to 15 per cent. since 2000.[2]

Support for older people

Figures from 2000 relating to support for older people could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, figures are available from 1997 and these are shown as follows.

Since 1997 our strategy has been to target help on the poorest pensioners while providing a solid foundation of support for all.

This year we will be spending over £13 billion more on pensioners than if we had continued with the policies that were in place in 1997. Around half of that money will go to the poorest third of pensioners.

In 1997 the poorest pensioners, who received income support, lived on £69 a week (£98 in today's prices). Today pension credit, which was introduced in 2003, means no pensioner needs to live on less than £130 a week, £198.45 for couples. As of May 2009 6,340 pensioners in South Thanet are benefiting from pension credit.

In 2007-08 there were 900,000 fewer pensioners living in relative poverty in UK compared to 1998-99 (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs).

Statistics on the proportion of pensioners living in relative poverty are not available at the constituency level. But the latest data for the south east Government office region show that the number of pensioners in poverty fell from 23 per cent. to16 per cent. since 2000[3].

Pensioners in the UK also benefit from a range of additional support such as the winter fuel payment which this winter is worth £250 for households aged between 60 to 79 and £400 for households aged 80 or over. These payments provide vital reassurance to older people that they can afford to turn up their heating during cold weather. Prior to winter 1997-98 less than £60 million was spent helping pensioners meet their fuel bills—this year we will be spending around £2.7 billion on winter fuel payments alone. In 2008-09 22,070 people aged 60 and over benefited from winter fuel payments in South Thanet.

We have also taken steps to strengthen and protect the private pensions system to ensure people can continue to have confidence to save for their future through the establishment of the Pensions Protection Fund, the financial assistance scheme and a more powerful and proactive pensions regulator.

The protection system ensures that, unlike in 1997, people are not left without a pension even in the event that their employer becomes insolvent.

In total 733 people in the south east region are receiving compensation from the Pension Protection Fund (data not available at constituency level).[4]

We have also taken forward a radical package of pension reforms in the Pensions Acts of 2007 and 2008 which will deliver a fairer and more generous state pension and extend the opportunity of workplace pension saving to millions, many for the first time.

The state pension reforms begin to come into effect from 2010 and will mean around three quarters of women reaching state pension age in 2010 are expected to qualify for a full basic state pension compared to half without reform.

Support for disabled people and carers

Since 2001, we have significantly extended and improved civil rights for disabled people in areas such as employment, education, access to goods and services and transport. Disabled people in South Thanet will have benefited from these improvements. The Welfare Reform Act 2009 contains powers to increase choice and control for disabled adults, including disabled parents who are entitled to state support, enabling them to choose how certain state support is used to meet their individual needs. This will be trailblazed in up to eight local authority areas from late 2010. Older and less well off carers have gained extra help through the provisions within the National Carers Strategy.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate she has made of the proportion of recipients of the winter fuel payment who were *(a)* in fuel poverty when they received those payments and *(b)* no longer in fuel poverty as a result of having received those payments in each year since the implementation of the winter fuel payment scheme; and if she will make a statement; [317062]

(2) what estimate she has made of the proportion of recipients of cold weather payments who were *(a)* in fuel poverty when they received those payments and *(b)* no longer in fuel poverty as a result of having received those payments in each year since the implementation of the cold weather payment scheme; and if she will make a statement. [317063]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available.

Identifying those in fuel poverty is very difficult; however we know that the main contributing factors are energy efficiency of homes, energy prices and household income.

Both winter fuel and cold weather payments contribute to vulnerable households' incomes and provide reassurance that money will be available to contribute towards fuel bills. These payments form only part of a package of measures that the Government have put in place to tackle fuel poverty.

It is estimated that winter fuel payments help to keep around 200,000 households out of fuel poverty each year in the UK.

Winter Fuel Payments: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley have received cold weather payments since 1 November 2009. [317265]

Helen Goodman: Cold weather payment information is not available by constituency or local authority. It is only available by weather station and postcode.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data accident and emergency departments are obliged to *(a)* collect and *(b)* return to his Department regarding causes of admission. [317827]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Accident and emergency departments collect details about cause of admission. An extract of this data set is then collected centrally by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care as part of Hospital Episode Statistics and is published.

Two data items collected in Hospital Episode Statistics describe the cause of admission: "Patient group" picks out seven specific causes, namely road traffic accident, assault, deliberate self-harm, sports injury, firework injury, other accident, and brought in dead. "Clinical diagnosis" provides a wider range of categories for

[1] The Department for Work and Pensions was created in 2001 and so information relates to the Department and its predecessors.

[2] Based on three-year averages and figures are rounded to the nearest percentage point or 100,000 children between 2000-01 to 2002-03 and 2005-06 to 2007-08.

[3] Based on three-year averages and changes are rounded to the nearest percentage point or 100,000 pensioners between 2000-01 to 2002-03 and 2005-06 to 2007-08.

[4] Regional information about assistance payments received by members from the financial assistance scheme could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

cause of admission. Details for these categories are published in the Clinical Diagnosis section of the Hospital Episodes Data Dictionary. A copy of this has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.hesonline.org.uk/Ease/servlet/Attachment Retriever?site_id=1937&file_name=d:\efmfiles\1937\Understanding\AEDD_Jul09.pdf&short_name=AEDD_Jul09.pdf&u_id=8500

No data on causes of admission are returned to the Department.

Alcoholic Drinks: Cancer and Strokes

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cost to the NHS was of treating strokes caused by the consumption of alcohol in the last year for which figures are available; [316281]

(2) what the cost to the NHS was of treating *(a)* depression and *(b)* dementia attributable to alcohol in the last year for which figures are available; [316284]

(3) what the cost to the NHS was of treating breast cancer attributable to alcohol consumption in the last year for which figures are available; [316287]

(4) what the causes are of *(a)* breast cancer and *(b)* heart disease; and what proportion of cases of each were attributable to each such factor in the last 12 months; [316288]

(5) what the cost to the NHS was of treating *(a)* breast cancer and *(b)* heart disease attributable to the consumption of alcohol in the last year for which figures are available; [316290]

(6) how many reported cases of stroke there were in the last year for which figures are available; and in how many such cases the consumption of alcohol was a direct causal factor; [316291]

(7) what the cost to the NHS was of treating cancer of the *(a)* mouth, *(b)* oesophagus and *(c)* larynx attributable to the consumption of alcohol in the last year for which figures are available. [316295]

Gillian Merron: The cost of treating specific alcohol-related conditions, such as breast cancer, heart disease, stroke or mental health conditions can be given only at a disproportionate cost. However, alcohol misuse is estimated to cost the national health service around £2.7 billion per annum, which is broken down in the following table.

Estimates of the annual cost of alcohol misuse to the NHS in England

	Cost estimate (£ million)
Hospital in-patient and day visits	
Directly attributable to alcohol misuse	167.6
Partly attributable to alcohol misuse	1,022.7
Hospital out-patient visits	272.4
Accident and emergency visits	645.7
Ambulance services	372.4
NHS GP consultations	102.1
Practice nurse consultations	9.5
Laboratory tests	n/a
Dependency prescribed drugs	2.1
Specialist treatment services	55.3
Other health care costs	54.4
Total	2,704.1

There are a variety of direct risk factors that can lead to cancer and heart disease, but we know that tobacco, poor diet, genetics, such as a mutated BRC2 gene, and alcohol can cause cancer or heart disease in some individuals.

From work carried out by the North West Public Health Observatory we are able to estimate what the proportion of hospital admissions are due to alcohol consumption, this is know as the alcohol attributable fraction (AAF). The following table provides the AAFs for cancer of the oesophagus, cancer of the larynx, breast cancer. As there is no AAF for stroke, we have provided AAFs for haemorrhagic stroke, ischaemic stroke as a proxy and as there is no AAF for heart disease, we have provided AAFs for alcoholic cardiomyopathy, ischaemic heart disease, cardiac arrhythmias and heart failure as a proxy. There are no such appropriate proxy AAFs for dementia or depression.

AAFs for haemorrhagic stroke, ischaemic stroke, cancer of the lip, oral cavity and pharynx, cancer of the oesophagus, cancer of the larynx, breast cancer and hypertension, alcoholic cardiomyopathy, ischaemic heart disease, cardiac arrhythmias and heart failure

		Percentage
Condition	*Alcohol attributable factor*	
	Male	*Female*
Haemorrhagic stroke	24	10
Ischaemic stroke	4	*-6
Cancer of the lip, oral cavity and pharynx	47	28
Cancer of the oesophagus	26	13
Cancer of the larynx	29	16
Breast cancer	n/a	7
Hypertensive disease	28	13
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	100	100
Ischaemic heart disease	*-6	*-4
Cardiac arrhythmias	33	25
Heart failure	0.4	0.2

Source:
Alcohol-attributable fractions for England, North West Public Health Observatory, 2008

It is important to note that although recent meta-analyses showed that alcohol consumption was found to have protective effects on the risk of four conditions: ischaemic heart disease (IHD); ischaemic stroke, type II diabetes; and cholelithiasis, the health benefits for heart disease mostly accrue at low levels of consumption (no more than one-two units daily is needed for the main protective effect) and the benefits are mainly only seen in men over 40 years old and in postmenopausal women. Drinking above the recommended lower-risk levels, of not regularly drinking more than three-four units per day for men and not regularly drinking more than two-three units per day for women, however, does increase the risk of both ischaemic heart disease and ischaemic stroke compared to non-drinkers.

In 2008-09, there were 84,926 hospital admissions due to stroke. As there is no AAF for stroke we cannot say how many of these admissions were due to alcohol, but we can provide the number of hospital admissions for alcohol-related haemorrhagic stroke and alcohol-related ischaemic stroke as a proxy. In 2008-09, there were 2,445 admissions for alcohol-related haemorrhagic stroke and 1,197 admissions for alcohol-related ischaemic stroke.

Alzheimer's Disease: Research

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department has allocated for research into the causes of Alzheimer's disease in each of the last three years. [317778]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does not allocate funding for specific research directly but provides funding through the research councils.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) currently funds studies into the causes, prevention and treatment of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. These include studying drug treatment for managing symptoms, supporting tissue banks, and research into 'biomarkers' that might improve diagnosis. Other teams are investigating ways to diagnose and measure the progression of dementia and studying genes that may increase risk.

MRC expenditure on dementia research, including Alzheimer's, in the last three years was as follows:

	MRC expenditure (£ million)
2006-07	6.4
2007-08	10.2
2008-09	11.5

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) supports basic biological research in neuroscience and psychology. This includes basic underpinning research that may increase understanding of the causes of Alzheimer's. Funding on this research in the last three years was as follows:

	Funding (£ million)
2006-07	0.5
2007-08	0.6
2008-09	0.5

Additionally, the BBSRC funds research of relevance to amyloids, which are implicated in Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases. Funding on this research in the last three years was as follows:

	Funding (£ million)
2006-07	0.4
2007-08	0.8
2008-09	0.8

Autism

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made by his Department in producing a national autism strategy. [317349]

Phil Hope: The legislation mandates a time frame for the publication of the strategy by 1 April 2010.

The autism strategy will be published shortly, in advance of that date.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made by his Department in producing a national autism strategy; and when he expects to issue guidance to local authorities and strategic health authorities. [317883]

Phil Hope: The Autism Act 2009 commits the Government to publishing a strategy for adults with autism no later than 1 April 2010. The autism strategy will be published shortly, in advance of that date.

The Department will consult on the content of guidance for health and social care bodies over the summer and will publish that guidance before the end of December.

Breast Cancer

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths from breast cancer there were in the last year for which figures are available. [316289]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 9 February 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths from breast cancer there were in the last year for which figures are available. (316289)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where breast cancer was the underlying cause of death, in England and Wales, in 2008 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths where breast cancer was the underlying cause of death, England and Wales, 2008[1, 2, 3]

Cause of death	*Deaths (persons)*
Breast cancer	10,779

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C50.

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Breast Cancer: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of women resident in Hemsworth constituency with suspected breast cancer saw a specialist within two weeks of referral in each year since 1997. [316628]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of people seen and the percentage seen within two weeks, following an urgent referral for suspected breast cancer for Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Mid-Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust.

		Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust		*Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust*	
	Quarter (Q)	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2001-02	Q1	98	96.1	86	69.9
	Q2	111	100.0	60	42.6
	Q3	121	100.0	141	88.1

		Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust		Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	
	Quarter (Q)	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
	Q4	122	100.0	108	100.0
2002-03	Q1	118	95.9	162	100.0
	Q2	129	98.5	159	100.0
	Q3	101	84.2	223	98.7
	Q4	137	100.0	174	97.2
2003-04	Q1	126	100.0	181	98.9
	Q2	148	100.0	241	97.6
	Q3	157	100.0	208	92.9
	Q4	156	100.0	215	91.1
2004-05	Q1	155	100.0	208	99.5
	Q2	149	100.0	190	98.4
	Q3	164	100.0	241	99.2
	Q4	159	100.0	215	96.4
2005-06	Q1	199	100.0	231	98.7
	Q2	180	100.0	279	98.9
	Q3	188	100.0	283	100.0
	Q4	190	100.0	259	100.0
2006-07	Q1	177	100.0	308	100.0
	Q2	157	100.0	297	100.0
	Q3	175	100.0	352	100.0
	Q4	175	100.0	313	100.0
2007-08	Q1	154	100.0	288	100.0
	Q2	149	100.0	307	99.7
	Q3	151	100.0	424	99.8
	Q4	154	100.0	363	100.0
2008-09	Q1	186	100.0	454	99.6
	Q2	147	100.0	444	100.0
	Q3	166	100.0	420	100.0
	Q4	159	98.1	416	96.1
2009-10	Q1	177	97.3	390	95.6
	Q2	158	99.4	392	97.5

Source:
Cancer Waiting Times database

Cancer: Drugs

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the merits of providing to patients with rare cancers second line treatments licensed for their conditions. [316548]

Ann Keen: The Department has made no assessment of the merits of providing to patients with rare cancer second line treatments licensed for their conditions.

However, second line treatments for patients with rarer cancers are included in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's programme of work on cancer. Full details of completed and ongoing appraisals of these treatments can be found at

www.nice.org.uk

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take to reduce the time taken for individual funding requests for drug treatment from patients with metastatic cancer to be processed; [317381]

(2) what assessment he has made of the performance of each primary care trust in meeting the timescales set out in the National Prescribing Centre's guidance on Principles for Processes Supporting Local Decision-making about Medicines in *(a)* decision making, *(b)* communication of outcome, *(c)* case type and *(d)* appeals processes. [317382]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The National Prescribing Centre's document, 'Defining Guiding Principles for Processes supporting Local Decision Making about Medicines', available at:

www.npc.co.uk/policy/local/guiding_principles.htm

makes it clear that primary care trusts (PCTs) should make decisions in a reasonable and practical timeframe, but without compromising the minimum process requirements, even when requests are urgent. We expect PCTs to exercise their judgment when setting timeframes for dealing with individual requests. We have not made an assessment of PCT performance in dealing with such requests.

Cancer: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of suspected cancer patients resident in Hemsworth saw an NHS consultant within two weeks of referral in each year since 1997. [316629]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of people seen and the percentage seen within two weeks, following urgent referral with suspected cancer for Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Mid-Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust.

		Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust		*Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust*	
	Quarter (Q)	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2001-02	Q1	404	96.0	226	77.7
	Q2	375	94.20	211	65.5
	Q3	427	94.7	337	93.1
	Q4	448	95.7	367	98.9
2002-03	Q1	438	93.6	680	98.0
	Q2	477	95.4	737	98.8
	Q3	476	90.8	819	98.9
	Q4	537	98.0	797	97.9
2003-04	Q1	496	93.6	856	95.5
	Q2	522	93.4	1,010	93.4
	Q3	510	95.9	968	95.8
	Q4	654	99.8	984	94.6
2004-05	Q1	526	98.1	992	93.6
	Q2	574	98.6	995	94.5
	Q3	612	100.0	1,080	96.6
	Q4	576	100.0	973	87.0
2005-06	Q1	702	100.0	1,196	97.0
	Q2	683	100.0	1,301	96.9
	Q3	730	100.0	1,313	98.2
	Q4	750	100.0	1,290	99.8
2006-07	Q1	737	100.0	1,500	99.9
	Q2	700	100.0	1,642	99.8
	Q3	779	100.0	1,714	99.9
	Q4	759	100.0	1,628	99.9
2007-08	Q1	818	100.0	1,751	100.0
	Q2	734	100.0	1,824	99.9
	Q3	758	100.0	1,988	99.8
	Q4	666	100.0	1,908	99.7
2008-09	Q1	790	100.0	2,099	99.9
	Q2	820	100.0	2,233	100.0
	Q3	877	100.0	2,229	99.8
	Q4	848	94.2	2,135	94.8
2009-10	Q1	981	93.8	2,243	92.5

		Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust		Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	
	Quarter (Q)	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
	Q2	954	97.3	2,344	91.5

Source:
Cancer Waiting Times database

Cancer: Kidneys

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence of kidney cancer was in each region in each of the last five years. [317509]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the incidence of kidney cancer was in each region in each of the last five years. [317509]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of kidney cancer (incidence) are for the year 2007. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

Table 1 provides the numbers of newly diagnosed cases of kidney cancer in each government office region in England, for each year from 2003 to 2007.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of kidney cancer[1]: government office regions, England[2] 2003 to 2007[3].

					Persons
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
North East	349	329	346	354	346
North West	686	655	679	741	758
Yorkshire and The Humber	572	583	607	675	655
East Midlands	380	488	481	524	529
West Midlands	503	496	532	541	590
East	527	518	622	644	593
London	547	550	552	550	590
South East	787	888	872	883	925
South West	620	663	714	780	770

[1] Kidney cancer is coded as C64 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[3] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the likely effects on the operational response to a public health incident of the transfer of the Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response from Porton Down to Terlings Park during the transfer period. [316907]

Gillian Merron: The business case for redevelopment or relocation of the Health Protection Agency's (HPA's) facilities at Porton Down will be considered by the Department when it is received. Any impact on the HPA's ability to respond to an emergency at any time during the proposed project will be part of the consideration.

Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response: Olympic Games 2012

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are in place for the Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response to provide advice to the organisers of the London 2012 Olympics. [317195]

Gillian Merron: The Health Protection Agency as a whole, including the Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response, has been working with the organisers of the Olympic and Paralympics games and central Government Departments, since 2005 to provide advice and expertise on health protection issues.

Dementia: Health Services

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to healthcare professionals on improvement of recognition rates for vascular dementia; and what progress has been made in implementing his Department's dementia strategies. [317929]

Phil Hope: Improving services for people with dementia including vascular dementia is a Government priority, and we have already identified it as a priority for the national health service in the operating framework. This will help to ensure that dementia is prioritised locally where further improvement may be needed.

Early diagnosis of dementia including vascular dementia is a key part of the National Dementia Strategy, which was published a year ago and will be implemented over a five-year period. The joint National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and Social Care Institute for Excellence clinical guideline for England provides guidance to health care professionals for all types of dementia.

Departmental Energy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated *(a)* amount and *(b)* cost was of energy used in his Department and its agencies in each year since 1997; what proportion of the energy used was generated from renewable sources in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [317229]

Phil Hope: The amount and cost of energy used by the Department and its agencies and as reported as part of the Sustainable Development in Government annual exercise for the last five years is as follows:

Core Department of Health

Consumption Kilowatt hour (kWh)	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Fossil Fuel	6,228,420	4,836,970	4,846,690	5,437,549	5,348,821
Electricity	13,268,795	12,972,000	12,340,000	12,317,512	12,297620
Total	19,497,215	17,808,971	17,186,690	17,755,061	17,646,440
% renewable	68	72	71	67	65
Cost (£)	848,572	£1,038,918	£1,095,438	£1,006,072	£1,686,629

NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency

Consumption KWh	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Fossil Fuel	455,509	513,790	547,914	589,362	418,320
Electricity	572,893	640,780	669,822	718863	720,143
Total	1,028,402	1,154,570	1,217,736	1,308,225	1,138,463
% renewable	47	55	54	54	63
Cost (£)	46,342	60,432	66,556	60,887	94,213

Note:

All data is weather corrected, and has been processed by the Building Research Establishment and signed off as part of the Sustainable Development in Government exercise.

Central Government Departments and their Executive agencies are required to report performance data on the amount of energy sourced from renewable sources annually as part of the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) reporting process. The Government had a target to source at least 10 per cent of electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008, which it has already achieved. The latest assessment of Government's performance against this target was published by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) on the 18 December 2009, and is available on the OGC website

www.ogc.gov.uk/sustainability_programme_progress.asp

Information on reporting years prior to 2008-09 was collated and published by the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) can be found on the SDC website

www.sd-commission.org.uk

The information in this answer covers the Department's central administrative estate of Richmond House, Wellington House and Skipton House. The Department is a minor occupier in New Kings Beam House (HM Revenue and Customs) and Quarry House in Leeds (Department of Work and Pensions) and the data for these sites is not available to us. Reductions in 2005-06 and 2006-07 are due to the closure of one London building, Eileen House. From 2007-08, we included figures from our site in Nelson, Lancashire.

The data supplied for NHS PASA relates to energy used at their Reading, Chester and Sheffield sites. The Sheffield site was closed during 2007-08.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency are unable to provide electricity data for 2004-07 or gas data for 2004-09 as the information is not available from their landlord. This information has not been used for the energy efficiency part of the Sustainable Development in Government exercise, as the gas figures are unknown.

Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority

Consumption KWh	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Fossil Fuel	[1]—	[1]—
Electricity	1,672,164	1,697,914[2]
Total	1,672,164	1,697,914
% renewable	0	0
Cost (£)	163,000	146,000

[1] Not known

[2] Budget figure

Diabetes: Prisons

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what training his Department provides to *(a)* prison officers and *(b)* healthcare professionals on the management of diabetes in prisons; [316874]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of healthcare services for people with diabetes in prison; [316875]

(3) what steps his Department has taken to prevent the development of type 2 diabetes among prisoners; [316876]

(4) how many adults in prison are being treated for each type of diabetes. [316877]

Phil Hope: Since April 2006, commissioning responsibility for prison health services has been fully devolved to the national health service primary care trusts (PCTs). PCTs work with the prison healthcare team to assess the health care needs of their population and develop services to meet those needs. There is no specific training for prison officers in the management of diabetes.

Local PCTs are responsible for assuring the training of their workforce and the quality of care provided in primary care settings to their local population, which includes the offender population within publicly run prisons in their locality.

All clinical staff are regulated and subject to the same standards of practice including those providing care in prisons. The standards of care expressed in the New General Medical Services Quality Outcomes Framework will be monitored, as they are in general practice, across the prison estate following the roll out of a general practitioner (GP) clinical IT system.

There is no specific programme in prisons for the prevention of type II diabetes, however, in April 2009, PCTs began phased implementation of the NHS Health Check programme which aims to prevent diabetes, stroke, heart disease and kidney disease. The programme is a universal and systematic programme for everyone between the ages of 40-74 that do not already have an existing vascular disease. The purpose of a NHS Health Check is to identify an individual's risk of diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke and kidney disease, for this risk to be communicated in a way that the individual understands, and for that risk to be managed by appropriate follow-up.

It is the responsibility of local PCTs to consider their different communities, including offender populations, when doing so. NHS Health Checks can be carried out in a variety settings, including pharmacies, GP practices and other community settings such as prisons. This will help ensure access to the checks by prisoners.

The Department does not collect the numbers of adults in prison being treated for each type of diabetes.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what mechanism the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse liaises with the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. [317555]

Gillian Merron: The secretariat of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), working together with the Department, which sponsors the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA), ensures that appropriate collaboration takes place between the ACMD and NTA on matters of mutual interest.

In addition, employees of the NTA have been or are ACMD members in a personal capacity. NTA staff have appeared before the Council as expert witnesses on particular drug misuse issues and the NTA has also attended public meetings of the ACMD, as a public stakeholder.

East Midlands Strategic Health Authority: Finance

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much NHS East Midlands spent on independent investigations relating to the care of patients in each of the last five years; [317366]

(2) what the total cost to NHS East Midlands was of the independent investigation into the death of Karen Godden, reference 2007/9913. [317377]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally. However, this information may be available directly from East Midlands Strategic Health Authority.

Family Nurse Partnership Programme: Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of delivering the Family Nurse Partnership nationwide. [317139]

Ann Keen: We are still testing the Family Nurse Partnership programme in England, and so are not yet in a position to estimate the costs of delivering it nationwide.

Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Feltham and Heston constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to the Department's policies since 1997. [316671]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government have put in place a programme of national health service investment and reform since 1997 to improve service delivery in all parts of the United Kingdom. 93 per cent. of people nationally now rate the NHS as good or excellent. The NHS constitution contains 25 rights and 14 pledges for patients and the public including new rights to be treated within 18 weeks, or be seen by a cancer specialist within two weeks and an NHS health check every five years for those aged 40-74 years.

There is significant evidence that these policies have yielded considerable benefits for the Feltham and Heston constituency. For example, figures for November 2009 show that in Hounslow Primary Care Trust (PCT):

92 per cent. of patients whose treatment involved admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

96 per cent. of patients whose treatment did not involve admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

Between September 2001 and September 2008 the number of general practitioners (GPs) per 100,000 people within Hounslow PCT has increased from 55.6 to 61.2.

Hounslow PCT opened the Heart of Hounslow Centre for Health in February 2007. The centre became a polyclinic on 29 April 2009. It offers GP services between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. seven days a week, 365 days a year, as well as access to a wide range of outpatient healthcare services.

In September 2009, at West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust, 98.9 per cent. of patients spent less than four hours in accident and emergency from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge.

Between September 1997 and September 2008 the number of consultants at West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust increased from 50 to 79. Between September 1997 and September 2008 the estimated number of nurses increased from 604 to 904.

92.8 per cent. of urgent GP referrals to West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust with suspected cancer are seen by a specialist within two weeks of the referral.

Although statistical information is not available at a local level, Feltham and Heston will have also benefited from national policies in other areas. For example since 1997, gross current expenditure on personal social services has increased by around 70 per cent. in real terms with around 105,000 households now receiving intensive home care and 3,076 new extra care housing units - exceeding the original target of 1,500 new extra care units.

Other strategies currently being implemented are:

Subject to parliamentary approval, the Personal Care at Home Bill will guarantee free personal care for 280,000 people with the highest needs and help around 130,000 people who need home care for the first time to regain their independence;

Shaping the Future of Care Together Green Paper, published in July 2009, sets out a vision for a National Care Service for all adults in England which is fair, simple and affordable. The Department has consulted widely on this reform and is currently analysing the responses, which will feed into a White Paper later this year;

The National Carer's Strategy - (Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities)- launched in 2008;

The first National Dementia Strategy was published in February 2009; Valuing People Now - a three year strategy for people with learning disabilities published in January 2009; and

New Horizons: A Shared Vision for Mental Health - launched in December 2009 - to maintain improvements in mental health services combined with a new cross-Government approach to promoting public mental health.

Since 1998, there are now 2.4 million fewer smokers in England as a result of the Government's comprehensive tobacco control strategy which has had a measurable impact on reducing smoking prevalence.

Child obesity levels are reducing due to the efforts of families across England, supported by the Government's obesity strategy. In 2008, 13.9 per cent. of children (aged two to 10) in England were classified as obese, compared with 17.3 per cent. in 2005.

Overall, life expectancy at birth for men has increased from 74.5 years (1995-1997 data) to 77.7 years (2006-08 data) while for women, life expectancy at birth has increased from 79.6 years (1995-97 data) to 81.9 years (2006-08 data).

Food Standards Agency

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* objectives and *(b)* costs for 2009-10 are of the Food Standards Agency's Livestock Traceability Scheme. [316824]

Gillian Merron: The Food Standards Agency has advised that it does not have a 'Livestock Traceability Scheme'. European Union legislation requires food business operators (FBOs) at slaughterhouses to be able to trace all food-producing animals supplied to them and, from 1 January 2010, to receive food chain information (FCI) for all cattle and sheep sent for slaughter for human consumption. The requirement for FCI forms part of the whole chain, farm-to-fork approach to food safety introduced by EU hygiene regulations from 1 January 2006.

The Meat Hygiene Service verifies the checks on livestock identification carried out by FBOs in slaughterhouses to ensure the traceability of meat for food safety and animal disease control purposes. Livestock traceability is the responsibility of Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Departments of Rural Affairs in the devolved Administrations.

General Practitioners

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce the number of people presenting to their GPs with minor ailments. [316718]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department's self care strategy focuses on supporting people especially those with long-term conditions to take a more active and informed role in decisions about their health and well-being. "Your health, your way" provides information about self care support on NHS Choices, including "Making the most of your pharmacist".

Community pharmacies have a key role to play in supporting self care, providing advice and support to people requesting help with the treatment of minor ailments, illnesses and injuries including advice on the use of over-the-counter treatments, where appropriate. The pharmacy communications strategy, currently under way, aims to encourage people to use pharmacies as the first port of call for such minor ailments, potentially reducing the number of people presenting to general practitioners' surgeries.

General Practitioners: Opening Hours

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioner surgeries in Salford offered extended opening times in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest date for which information is available. [317393]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The Department's latest published data show that as at July 2009, in the Salford primary care trust area, 39 out of 53 general practitioner practices (73.6 per cent.) were offering extended opening hours to patients. The figure for the North West Strategic Health Authority is 71.3 per cent., and the figure for England is 77.1 per cent.

Source:

Department of Health.

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department paid to the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last five years; how much it has spent on such payments in 2009-10; and what proportion of such payments was made in respect of the Government Car Service. [316425]

Phil Hope: The Department has made the following payments to the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA). These totals exclude officials' cars.

	(£)
2005-06	56,997.91
2006-07	59,505.72
2007-08	61,588.42
2008-09	118,665.57
2009-10	104,357.14

The cost increase in 2008-09 was due to courier and taxi services previously supplied by another party being transferred to the GCDA contract, who provide a 'greener' service.

Costs to Departments of officials' cars are reported annually to Parliament by my right. hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport through written ministerial statement and are available in the Library.

Health Service: Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many and what percentage of suspected cancer patients resident in Feltham and Heston saw an NHS consultant within two weeks of referral in each year since 1997; [316662]

(2) how many and what percentage of women resident in Feltham and Heston with suspected breast cancer saw a specialist within two weeks of referral in each year since 1997. [316666]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held in the format requested. This data is collected by national health service trust, for each quarter since 2001-02. The following table shows the number and percentage of patients seen within two weeks by a specialist following urgent general practitioner referral with suspected breast cancer and all suspected cancers at West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust.

	Breast cancer		All cancers	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
2001-02				
Q1	130	97.0	159	95.8
Q2	141	90.4	163	90.6
Q3	130	100.0	158	100.0
Q4	121	100.0	151	99.3
2002-03				
Q1	117	100.0	164	98.8
Q2	117	99.2	151	96.8
Q3	126	100.0	163	100.0
Q4	102	100.0	133	100.0
2003-04				
Q1	106	100.0	152	97.4
Q2	131	100.0	203	95.8
Q3	134	99.3	221	95.7
Q4	144	100.0	278	99.3
2004-05				
Q1	136	100.0	224	100.0
Q2	125	100.0	223	100.0
Q3	149	100.0	230	100.0
Q4	120	100.0	237	100.0
2005-06				
Q1	159	100.0	318	100.0
Q2	132	100.0	288	100.0
Q3	89	100.0	271	100.0
Q4	115	100.0	270	100.0
2006-07				
Q1	114	100.0	291	100.0
Q2	102	100.0	321	100.0
Q3	123	100.0	350	100.0
Q4	124	100.0	345	100.0
2007-08				
Q1	157	100.0	425	100.0
Q2	128	100.0	387	99.5
Q3	135	100.0	406	100.0
Q4	166	100.0	420	100.0
2008-09				
Q1	156	100.0	498	99.6
Q2	138	100.0	507	100.0
Q3	142	100.0	500	100.0
Q4	129	94.9	459	93.3
2009-10				
Q1	188	94.5	641	93.3
Q2	151	92.1	578	92.8

Source:

Cancer Waiting Times Database

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people resident in Feltham and Heston over *(a)* retirement age and *(b)* the age of 60 years are entitled to free eye tests. [316667]

Gillian Merron: From 1 April 1999, eligibility for national health service funded sight tests was extended to everyone aged 60 and over.

Health Services: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on healthcare in Hemsworth constituency in each year since 1997. [316623]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows the amount spent on healthcare services by the Wakefield District Primary Care Trust (PCT) for the years shown.

£000

	Primary healthcare	Secondary healthcare	Other healthcare	Total healthcare
2008-09	138,595	398,059	400	537,054
2007-08	134,171	372,689	52,620	559,480
2006-07	128,286	322,699	498	451,483
2005-06	117,137	289,530	375	407,042
2004-05	103,090	270,004	604	373,698
2003-04	90,316	231,898	1,118	323,332
2002-03	74,138	205,782	50	279,970

Notes:

1. 2002-03 to 2008-09 are the only years for which information is available for the Wakefield District PCT.

2. The figures are taken from the audited summarisation schedules of Wakefield District PCT and its predecessor organisations. Wakefield District PCT was formed as part of the reconfiguration of PCTs in October 2006, following the merger of Eastern Wakefield PCT and the Wakefield West PCT. The figures provided for 2002-03 to 2005-06 are the sum of equivalent values in these two PCTs.

3. The figures represent the total primary, secondary and other healthcare purchased and provided for the PCT's resident population, with the exception of primary dental and general ophthalmic services since these costs are not directly attributed to PCTs on the basis of a patient's place of residence.

4. 'Other healthcare' as defined in the audited summarisation schedules includes expenditure for NHS trust impairments, plus grants to other bodies for health related capital projects under joint working arrangements.

Source:

Department of Health, audited summarisation schedules of Wakefield District PCT and its predecessor organisations.

Health Services: Older People

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many elderly people resident in Cumbria are in receipt of elderly care; and what the projected figure is of the number of people requiring elderly care in each year up to 2020; [317685]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that elderly people living in poverty have access to an equal standard of elderly care; and if he will make a statement; [317686]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the effect of care charges on users of elderly care services *(a)* in England, *(b)* in Cumbria and *(c)* amongst elderly people living in poverty. [317687]

Phil Hope: The number of people receiving social services, funded either partially or in full by Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs) in England is collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care from the Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care return.

Provisional data for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 show that 13,500 adults aged 65 and over in Cumbria were in receipt of CASSR-funded services. Information on the numbers of people who fund their own care services is not collected centrally.

The Department has not made projections of the number of older people who will require social services care in Cumbria in each year up until 2020. It has commissioned the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) at the London School of Economics to make national projections of future demand for social care and associated expenditure. The PSSRU has projected an increase in numbers of older service users in England from approximately 880,000 in 2010 to approximately 1,050,000 in 2020; Forder and Fernandez, 2009, PSSRU discussion paper 2644, table 26—available on the PSSRU website at:

www.pssru.ac.uk

The Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) framework was introduced in 2003 to address inconsistencies across the country about who gets support, in order to provide a fairer and more transparent system for the allocation of social care services.

At the heart of the FACS guidance is the principle that councils should operate just one eligibility decision for all adults seeking social care support. FACS introduced four bands of eligibility based on people's needs—Critical, Substantial, Moderate and Low. Once eligibility for social care has been established using these four bands, the council may then means test the individual and apply the local charging regime.

The Department has been working with stakeholders to revise the FACS guidance in the context of "Putting People First", in order to support councils to implement eligibility criteria for social care as fairly and consistently as possible. The Department carried out a consultation on the revised FACS guidance simultaneously with the publication of the Fairer Contributions guidance, in July 2009. The FACS guidance is integral to the assessment of a person's need for social care, while the Fairer Contributions guidance is employed, where appropriate, once that assessment has been made. The revised FACS guidance will be published shortly.

The regulations under the Personal Care at Home Bill, introduced to Parliament on 25 November 2009, would offer free personal care at home for 280,000 people with the highest care needs. An additional £130 million will provide 130,000 people with an active programme of reablement to ensure they regain their independence. This will build on the most innovative practices already adopted by many local authorities and primary care trusts. We have already begun engaging with local authority stakeholders to discuss the workings of the scheme, and councils are invited to respond to the consultation document, "Personal Care at Home: a consultation on proposals for regulations and guidance". The consultation document is available in the Library.

In April 2009, my right hon. Friend, the then Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson) asked Sir Ian Carruthers OBE, chief executive of NHS South West, and Jan Ormondroyd, chief executive of Bristol City Council, to undertake a review of age discrimination and age equality in the health and social care sector. They were asked to consider what health and social care organisations should do to ensure that people are not discriminated against by services because of their age. The review was set up to help health and social care organisations meet the ban on age discrimination and the new public sector equality duty in the Equality Bill.

The consultation, "Age Equality in Health and Social Care", is now live and includes the Government's response on the recommendations in the review that are not directly tied to the legislation.

The consultation is concerned with action to be taken in England. However, the Equality Bill applies throughout Great Britain. The Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly Government are considering separately what action to take to prepare the NHS and social care in Scotland and Wales for implementation of the Equality Bill. There will also be a further consultation on a draft Legislative Order led by the Government Equalities office later in 2010.

It is for councils to decide whether or not to set charges for non-residential social services. The legal basis is that charges generally should be 'reasonable', as set out in the Health and Social Services and Social Security Adjudications (HASSASSA) Act 1983. Should councils decide to charge for these services, this must be in accordance with statutory guidance issued by the Department, "Fairer Charging Policies for Home Care and other non-residential Social Services".

For service users in receipt of personal budgets, the Department's Fairer Contributions guidance provides councils with a model for calculating how much a person should contribute to their personal budget. It has been produced as a companion to the existing Fairer Charging guidance.

Charging for residential care services is governed by regulations, which prescribe a national means test and a statutory system of charging, which councils must follow. Councils assess a person's ability to pay residential care charges according to the National Assistance (Assessment of Resources) Regulations 1992 and statutory guidance, the "Charging for Residential Accommodation Guide". Copies of all regulations and guidance are available in the Library.

No assessments have been made by the Department of the effects of care charges on users of social care services for older people in England, in Cumbria, or among older people living in poverty. However, all charging systems include safeguards to protect the least well-off from charges. Anyone with less than £23,000 in savings is entitled to apply for local authority assistance with the cost of their care.

Health Visitors: North West

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors have been employed in each primary care trust in the North West in each year since 1997. [317207]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the number of health visitors employed in the North West Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area and each primary care trust in the North West SHA area at 30 September each year for available years since 1997.

	Headcount for year											
Organisation	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
North West SHA area	1,899	1,911	1,903	1,896	1,942	1,968	1,988	2,105	2,077	2,029	1,897	1,838
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	102	95	88	97	108	104	103
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	59	67	65	57	53	53	57
Blackpool PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	47	49	52	53	53	54	61
Bolton PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	72	75	75	76	78	80	76
Bury PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	44	45	46	45	49	46	52
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	110	125	122	126	105	97	96
Central Lancashire PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	122	129	135	140	139	115	101
Cumbria Teaching PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	109	131	179	157	138	111	110
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	117	122	133	123	117	107	99
Halton and St. Helens PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	69	67	75	77	62	64	71
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	63	63	59	59	60	61	78
Knowsley PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	52	58	58	64	66	69	54
Liverpool PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	133	131	123	121	101	108	103
Manchester PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	110	111	112	121	135	138	125
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	64	58	61	58	60	61	89
Oldham PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	28	38	67	69	61	60	51
Salford PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	73	73	69	70	65	59	40
Sefton PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	59	59	62	69	65	66	56
Stockport PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	163	139	169	157	172	99	81
Tameside and Glossop PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	70	73	72	63	76	75	68
Trafford PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	63	71	69	63	60	56	52
Warrington PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	60	57	47	47	47	45	50
Western Cheshire PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	55	52	59	58	55	63	64
Wirral PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	92	76	86	92	83	89	83

n/a = Not applicable; PCTs not established until 2002.

Notes:

1. PCT figures have been mapped to their current organisational structure.

2. Data quality: workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 national health service trusts and PCTs in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens, any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level, they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be foot noted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care—Non-Medical Workforce Census

Health: Sunlight

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has commissioned research into the potential effects on health of low levels of sunlight in the UK relative to such levels in other countries. [317001]

Gillian Merron: The Department has not commissioned research of this kind and at present has no plans to do so.

Heroin: Overdoses

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of former prisoners died as a result of a heroin overdose within *(a)* one week, *(b)* one month and *(c)* one year of their release from prison in the last three years. [317553]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected by the Department.

Home Care Services: Finance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health under what budget headings he expects the estimated £2.7 billion of savings consequent on moving more care from hospital to home to be made. [317116]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: By 2013-14 we estimate that up to £2.7 billion a year can be saved in the national health service by transforming the care and lives of those with long-term conditions and by reforming community services across the NHS. These are part of the £15-20 billion savings which we have said the NHS will deliver by 2013-14.

£750 million of savings are possible through driving down variation across the country by ensuring current best practice in terms of case management, care planning -care support. A further £750 million of savings are possible through reducing emergency admissions for people with long-term conditions to the level of the best performing systems internationally. This raises the quality of care for patients and helps the NHS, provided the care is good enough and we intend to ensure it is.

The remaining £1.2 billion is achievable through reforms to community services, driving improvements in the efficiency of community services, so that in all areas of the country efficiency levels meet those currently achieved by the best performing areas.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency readmissions there were in each NHS trust in each year since 1997. [313972]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information available, based on information provided by the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development, is set out in a table which I have placed in the Library. Figures are given separately for the age groups 0-15 years and 16 years and above. The table also includes information on the standardised rate of emergency readmissions, defined as the number of emergency readmissions divided by the total number of hospital discharges, adjusted for the different case mix and age and sex of patients to allow a more valid comparison between different years or different provider units.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency admissions relating to orthopaedic injuries there were in each primary care trust in England in *(a)* November, *(b)* December and *(c)* January in each of the last five years. [317197]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. Tables showing counts of finished admission episodes where the method of admission was emergency for episodes with a main consultant speciality of 'Trauma and Orthopaedics' separated by primary care trust of residence where the episode ended in months November, December and January from 2004-05 to 2008-09 have been placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Reviews

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has given to regional health authorities in England who are undertaking reviews of acute hospital sectors; and if he will make a statement. [317716]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department, in conjunction with its key stakeholders, has issued a raft of helpful guidance to strategic health authorities in England who are considering or undertaking reviews of acute hospital sectors.

It is the responsibility of the local national health service to plan, develop and improve health services according to the health care needs of the local population. The Department's 2008 publication—"Leading Local Change"—makes it clear that any changes should be locally led, clinically driven and built upon a sound clinical case for change. A copy of the publication has already been placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the median waiting time for *(a)* in-patient and *(b)* out-patient treatment was for patients in York in each year since 1997. [317222]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following tables show the median inpatient and outpatient waiting times for the York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and its predecessor trusts from 1997 to 2009.

Table 1: Inpatient waiting times

Month ending	*Median (weeks)*
March 1997	12.0
March 1998	15.9
March 1999	13.1
March 2000	15.2
March 2001	15.7
March 2002	16.8
March 2003	14.6
March 2004	11.7
March 2005	10.2
March 2006	8.5
March 2007	6.6
March 2008	5.6
March 2009	4.8
December 2009	4.3

Notes:

1. Inpatient waiting times are measured from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
2. The figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting for admission at the end of the period stated.
3. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.

Source:

Department of Health waiting list collections KH07 and MMRPROV.

Table 2: Median outpatient waiting time for first outpatient appointment, patients seen in the year all specialties, provider organisations in the York area

Inpatient waiting times for York Health Services Trust 1997 to 2009

Financial year	*Median (weeks)*
March 1997	5.9
March 1998	6.6
March 1999	8.4
March 2000	8.9
March 2001	6.9
March 2002	6.1
March 2003	6.4
March 2004	6.4
March 2005	6.4
March 2006	5.4
March 2007	3.2

Notes:

1. Outpatient waiting times are measured from referral by the general practitioner to first outpatient appointment with a consultant.
2. The outpatient seen figures relate to the average wait for patients seen during the whole of each year.
3. Outpatient waiting times on this basis no longer available.
4. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.

Source:

Department of Health waiting list collections QM08.

Table 3: Median outpatient waiting time for first outpatient appointment, patients still waiting at period end, all specialties, provider organisations in the York area

Outpatient waiting times for York Health Services Trust 2005 to 2009

Month ending	*Median (weeks)*
March 2005	5.4
March 2006	3.9
March 2007	3.5
March 2008	3.1
March 2009	2.5
December 2009	3.6

Notes:

1. Outpatient waiting times are measured from referral by the general practitioner to first outpatient appointment to the consultant.
2. Full waiting list was only collected from 2004 so average waiting first outpatient times on this basis have only been available from then.
3. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.
4. Historically, since 1997, outpatient waiting times were collected based on numbers seen during the quarter.
5. In addition, data were collected on a 'still waiting' basis in the monthly return alongside the inpatient waiting times figures. However, unlike the inpatient figures, the full waiting list on outpatients, was not collected, just the long waiters. Therefore, it was not possible to calculate the average wait on this basis.

Source:

Department of Health Waiting List Collections QM08 and MMRPROV.

Mental Health Services

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been treated as an *(a)* in-patient and *(b)* out-patient for a mental health condition (i) in Leicester, (ii) in the East Midlands and (iii) nationally in each of the last five years. [317351]

Phil Hope: Information is available on the number of patients in contact with specialist mental health services who received inpatient treatment for a mental health condition. Data are also available on the number of people in contact with specialist mental health services who received consultant outpatient appointments for a mental health condition in each of the last five years for which data are available.

Data have been collected in respect of inpatients and outpatients treated for a mental health condition by Leicestershire Partnerships National Health Service Trust, East Midlands Strategic Health Authority and in England between 1 April 2004 and 31 March 2009. This information is shown in the following table.

The data should be used with caution as they do not record non-consultant led outpatient appointments, and they record patients who received both inpatient and outpatient treatment as inpatients only. The data therefore underestimate the total number of outpatient appointments recorded in each year.

Number of people in contact with specialist mental health services and who received NHS inpatient and outpatient appointments for a mental health problem in Leicester, East Midlands and in England between 2004-05 and 2008-09: male and female, all ages

		2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	Inpatient	3,101	2,810	2,546	2,344	2,183
	Outpatient	11,291	11,887	12,237	12,438	13,631
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	Inpatient	8,408	8,063	7,836	8,178	8,091
	Outpatient	36,153	43,616	45,859	45,812	44,926
England	Inpatient	114,435	111,088	106,561	105,719	102,571
	Outpatient	446,393	488,259	474,332	470,742	477,627

Source:

NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care Mental Health Minimum Data Set 2004-2009 Annual Returns.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured by a person who has received treatment for mental health reasons in the three years before the incident (i) in Leicester, (ii) in the East Midlands and (iii) nationally in each of the last 10 years; [317352]

(2) how many people have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured by a person who has received treatment for mental health reasons (i) in Leicester, (ii) in the East Midlands and (iii) nationally in each of the last 10 years; [317353]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of independent investigations commissioned relating to patients receiving treatment for mental health reasons *(a)* in the East Midlands and *(b)* nationally in each of the last five years; [317354]

(4) how many independent investigations commissioned relating to patients receiving treatment for mental health reasons have been commissioned *(a)* in the East Midlands and *(b)* nationally in each of the last five years. [317358]

Phil Hope: Precise data on the number of homicides or serious injuries in England committed by people with mental illness are not collected centrally. However, we estimate that every year over 1,300 mental health patients take their own lives and between 50 and 70 per year are involved in taking the lives of others.

Nor does the Department collect data about homicide or serious injury committed by people with mental illness at local or regional levels. Strategic health authorities are responsible for commissioning independent investigations into adverse events in mental health services, including homicides committed by mental health service users. The Department does not collect routine information or cost data on such local investigations, and nor has there been a national estimate of their cost.

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many independent investigations commissioned relating to patients receiving treatment for mental health reasons there have been *(a)* in Mid Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [317529]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected routinely by the Department, but is collected by strategic health authorities, who are responsible for commissioning independent investigations into patients with a mental illness.

Mental Health Services: Advocacy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the level of access to independent mental health advocates by qualifying patients in *(a)* Birmingham and *(b)* England; [316749]

(2) which primary care trusts *(a)* have and *(b)* have not commissioned independent mental health advocate (IMHA) services; and if he will establish a national database of IMHA services. [316750]

Phil Hope: It is the duty of each primary care trust in England to make such arrangements as it considers reasonable to make available independent mental health advocates (IMHAs) for qualifying patients. The precise arrangements are a matter for local decision. The Department has no plans to establish a national database of IMHA services.

Mental Health Services: Prisons

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisons have a *(a)* resident and *(b)* visiting psychiatrists and how often visiting psychiatrists visited the prison to which they are allocated in the last 12 months. [318047]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The transfer of responsibility to primary care trusts for the commissioning of health services in prisons was completed in 2006. Health needs are based on a joint strategic needs assessment that informs the type and frequency of services provided in all prisons.

Mephedrone: Risk Assessment

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports he has received of the progress of the European Commission's risk assessment of mephedrone. [317557]

Gillian Merron: The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) has issued a formal request to member states' National Focal Points for the collection of further information on mephedrone for an EMCDDA-Europol Joint Report due later this year.

The UK's Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) is also conducting a review into the harms associated with mephedrone and other cathinones and has invited the UK National Focal Point to present evidence to this review on behalf of the EMCDDA. The ACMD will incorporate this evidence into its report and will advise Ministers accordingly.

Musgrove Park Hospital Taunton: Patients

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many appointments at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton were cancelled by patients in the last 12 months. [317974]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

Outpatient appointments cancelled by the patient for Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, 2008-09

	Patient cancelled first appointment	*Patient cancelled subsequent appointment*	*Total*
2008-09	5,299	11,945	17,244

Notes:

1. Hospital Provider: hospital providers can also include treatment centres (TC). As the data is tabulated by healthcare provider, the figure for a national health service trust gives the activity of all the sites as one aggregated figure. The quality of TC returns are such that data may not be complete. Some NHS trusts have not registered their TC as a separate site, and it is therefore not possible to identify their activity separately. Data from some independent sector providers, where the onus for arrangement of dataflows is on the commissioner, may be missing. Care must be taken when using this data as the counts may be lower than true figures.

2. Data quality: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

HES, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many private patients were treated at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton in the last 12 months; [317975]

(2) whether Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton is expected to meet its target to abolish mixed sex accommodation by the end of 2010. [317977]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is a matter for Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to Rosalinde Wyke, Chair of Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, informing her of the hon. Member's enquiry. She will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients' complaints were rectified by Patient Liaison and Advice Service Level at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton in 2009. [317976]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not available centrally. The Patient Advice and Liaison Service is managed through the national health service at a local primary care trust (PCT) level. PCTs are required, as part of their annual report, to provide the relevant strategic health authority with complaints data.

Such information as is available is in the following table.

Written complaints about hospital and community services by local resolution action within Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, England, as at 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009

				Local resolution			
	Total complaints	Concluded within 25 working days		Concluded outside 25 working days	Concluded outside 25 working days with consent	Concluded outside 25 working days without consent	Still being pursued
		Percentage	Number				
Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	459	62	283	171	130	41	5

Note:
Local resolution is the first stage of the complaints procedure when front-line staff should aim to provide the fullest possible opportunity for investigation and resolution of the complaint, as quickly as is sensible in the circumstances. This definition is from the guidance for completing the returns that are sent to Trusts.
Source:
Information Centre for health and social care—workforce and community dataset K041a.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many single occupancy rooms are available for patients at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton. [317978]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the latest Estates Related Information Collection (ERIC) return data for 2008-09 indicate that the Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust declared 14 per cent. of the 620 available beds at Musgrove Park Hospital as being single bedrooms for patients use.

Note:
ERIC defines "percentage of single bedrooms for patients" as a percentage of the total number of available beds that are single bedrooms provided for patient use.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration his Department gives to *(a)* progression-free and *(b)* overall survival factors in its health technology appraisals. [317948]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not carry out health technology appraisals. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is an independent body responsible for the development of technology appraisal guidance and its "Guide to the Methods of Technology Appraisal" is available on its website at:

www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/howwework/devnicetech/technologyappraisalprocessguides/guidetothemethodsoftechnologyappraisal.jsp

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what medicines *(a)* have been and *(b)* are being appraised through the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for supplementary advice for treatments extending life; which have met National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence criteria; what the outcomes were; and if he will make a statement; [317950]

(2) what assessment he has made of the impact of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's supplementary advice on the appraisal of end of life treatments in securing improved patient access to such treatments. [317951]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 8 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 713-14W.

Neuromuscular Services: West Midlands

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with *(a)* the West Midlands Specialised Commissioning Group and *(b)* primary care trusts in the West Midlands on the implementation of the West Midlands Neuromuscular Strategy. [316910]

Ann Keen: No discussions have been held with the West Midlands Specialised Commissioning Group or primary care trusts in the west midlands on the implementation of the West Midlands Neuromuscular Strategy.

It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure the provision of services for neuromuscular dystrophy patients in that region, including access to national health service funded muscular dystrophy care advisers.

NHS

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the NHS as the preferred provider of health services. [316313]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The policy on national health service as preferred provider is about getting the best care for patients and looking after the NHS staff who care for them. It represents a clarification of Government policy to ensure that where services provided within the public sector are performing well, are financially sustainable and also demonstrating the ability to keep improving there should be no presumption that these services are subject to competitive tender. When competitive tender does occur, it will be transparent and fair with all providers having an equal opportunity to bid, potentially in new partnerships and joint ventures.

The aim is to ensure that NHS staff are treated fairly and engaged in decisions, so that they know what is happening and when, and what changes are being sought and why. Service improvement and re-design should not be something which is imposed on NHS staff but something which they own and lead. Clinical engagement and leadership will be crucial to driving the transformation of services patients and taxpayers need.

The Secretary of State's Vision document "NHS 2010-2015: From Good to Great" and the "NHS Operating Framework 2010/11" outline how we expect the NHS as preferred provider to work in practice. Copies of both documents have already been placed in the Library.

NHS Direct

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many referrals were made by NHS Direct services in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [317690]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is set out in the following table:

Referrals from NHS Direct (0845 46 47)

	Referrals
2008	1,982,544
2009	1,735,473

Note:
These data include all calls to the 0845 46 47 line. It does not include other calls to services provided to national and local commissioners, including calls to The Appointments Line and locally commissioned services such as dental and out-of-hours services.
Source:
NHS Direct.

NHS Peterborough: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assistance his Department has provided to NHS Peterborough to reduce their budget deficit for 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [317360]

Phil Hope: The Department has not provided any financial support to Peterborough Primary Care Trust (PCT) to reduce its forecast deficit. The PCT held an extraordinary board meeting on 3 February where the Month 9 forecast deficit was reported as £9.8 million.

The East of England Strategic Health Authority (SHA) reports that it has agreed a robust recovery plan with the PCT and is closely monitoring progress against the agreed plan. The Department will work with the SHA to ensure that the PCT returns to financial balance.

NHS: Drugs

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 558W, on drugs: testing, if he will commission research on the comparative *(a)* safety and *(b)* effectiveness of (i) human biology-based testing and (ii) animal testing of new drugs and treatments. [317610]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does not commission research directly but provides funding to the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) through the research councils.

The NC3Rs has a number of projects which assess the value of animal research in drug development and safety testing. For example, an evidence-based review of conventional single dose acute toxicity studies for pharmaceuticals has shown that they provide limited information for human safety. Based on these data the regulatory requirement to carry out these studies prior to clinical trials has been removed.

The Medical Research Council's (MRC) own research programmes contribute to developing new knowledge or methods that help replace or refine animal use.

The MRC invests substantially in drug safety science including the new MRC Centre for Drug Safety Science in Liverpool and Manchester, the MRC's Toxicology Unit in Leicester, and the Integrative Toxicology Training programme. The aims include evaluation of the potential contribution of new technologies to the pre-clinical toxicological assessment of drugs and integration of the results with the findings from clinical studies.

NHS: Expenditure

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the expenditure envelope for the NHS in England is for the next five years. [317987]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As set out in paragraph 6.23, page 103 of the pre-Budget report 2009, the Government have not done a spending review at this stage, and therefore, the specific numbers requested in the question are not available.

NHS: Fees and Charges

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has collected in charges for services to patients not entitled to free services in each year since such charges were introduced; and if he will make a statement. [317337]

Ann Keen: Charges have been in place since 1982 for hospital treatment given to certain overseas visitors to the United Kingdom, but these statistics have only been collected since 2003-04. The total national income from overseas patients under non-reciprocal arrangements collected by national health service trusts and primary care trusts since that time is shown in the following table. They do not include data from NHS foundation trusts.

	Non-reciprocal income received (£)
2003-04	9,178,000
2004-05	10,883,000
2005-06	13,070,000
2006-07	15,182,925
2007-08	18,167,000
2008-09	17,541,000

NHS: Foreign Workers

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of non-UK citizens working for the NHS in England; and if he will make a statement. [317720]

Ann Keen: These data are not collected centrally.

NHS: Marketing

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on advertisements on television and commercial radio on NHS services since 2005. [317101]

Phil Hope: The following table shows the Department's television and radio advertising expenditure for the national health service over the last five completed financial years.

Department of Health television and radio advertising spend on NHS services 2004-05 to 2008-09

£ million

Financial year	*Television*	*Radio*
2004-05	14,116,855	2,613,818
2005-06	12,729,415	3,151,003
2006-07	8,017,017	1,800,547
2007-08	8,065,615	1,998,611
2008-09	12,757,306	3,061,050
2009-10	15,825,050	5,061,356

Notes:

1. Advertising spend is defined as covering only media spend (inclusive of agency commissions but excluding production costs, Central Office of Information (COI) commission and VAT). All figures exclude advertising rebates and audit adjustments and therefore may differ from COI official turnover figures. All figures are rounded to the nearest £10,000. These figures do not include the Department's recruitment/classified advertising costs and ad hoc spend under £10,000. These figures may include occasional minor spend through COI by NHS organisations, to supplement national campaigns in their area. While this expenditure has been excluded as far as possible so that this chart reflects central departmental spend, it would incur disproportionate cost to validate that every item of NHS expenditure has been removed.

2. 2009-10 figures are provisional until records are audited at the end of the financial year.

NHS: Procurement

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of a system of reverse e-auctions, weighted toward lowest price, for the procurement of NHS medical products in ensuring high standards of *(a)* safety and *(b)* quality of products procured. [316959]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In 2008-09 NHS Supply Chain conducted 54 reverse auctions, which resulted in estimated savings of 15 per cent. on previous tender prices.

As with the standard tender process, all medical products are checked for safety and quality before they are entered into a reverse auction. Medical products in a reverse auction are the same as those available in the standard tender process.

We are not aware of any formal assessment of the effectiveness of the system of reverse auctions for the procurement of national health service medical products.

NHS: Training

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish guidance on commissioning skills for the NHS. [316314]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The world class commissioning (WCC) programme was launched in December 2007 and is intended to strengthen the commissioning capability of primary care trusts (PCTs) to improve local health outcomes at best value for current and future service users. The competencies for world class commissioning were first published in December 2007 and refreshed in September 2009. They set out the knowledge, skills, behaviours and characteristics that underpin effective commissioning. PCTs are held to account on their commissioning performance through an annual assurance process. A copy of the WCC Assurance Handbook year 2, which details the competencies, has been placed in the Library and is available at:

http://wcc.networks.nhs.uk/background

Nurses

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an estimate of the number of registered nurses who were in receipt of benefits in each month for the last five years. [315074]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The information is not available.

Nurses: Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses were employed in the area covered by Hounslow Primary Care Trust in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available. [316689]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is displayed in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified nursing staff in each specified organisation as at 30 September each year

Headcount

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Hounslow Primary Care Trust (PCT)	292	303	300	286	265	269	249
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff[1]	213	208	221	200	190	190	184
General Practitioner Practice Nurses	79	95	79	86	75	79	65
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	820	817	857	765	815	888	904
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff[2]	820	817	857	765	815	888	904

Note:

Due to the formation of PCTs in 2002 it is impossible to accurately map work force figures for these organisations prior to 2002

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

Nurses: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many qualified school nurses there are employed in schools in *(a)* Bassetlaw constituency and *(b)* Nottinghamshire local authority. [316726]

Ann Keen: The information is not held in the format requested. Information is available for the number of qualified nursing staff in the school nursing area of work directly employed by national health service organisations. The following table shows the number of qualified nursing staff in the school nursing area of work in Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Nottinghamshire County PCT.

NHS hospital and community health services: qualified school nursing

Headcount

	Nurses in each specified organisation as at 30 September 2008	
	Qualified nurses in school nursing	*Of which qualified school nurses*[1]
Total for specified organisations	21	1
Bassetlaw PCT	3	0
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	18	1

Notes:

1. Qualified school nurses hold the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) specialist practice qualification with an outcome in school nursing, which is a recordable qualification on the NMC register.
2. The NHS Hospital and Community Health Services non-medical workforce census is a large statistical exercise, collecting over one million records from over 400 organisations. It is not, and is not intended to be, carried out to exact accounting standards.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care: Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Patients

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to encourage appropriate self-care by patients in treatment of minor ailments; [317952]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to educate patients on circumstances where *(a)* self-care is appropriate in the treatment of a minor ailments and *(b)* it is appropriate to seek medical advice. [317953]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Community pharmacies are very accessible to patients and the public and have a key role to play in supporting self-care—providing advice and support to people requesting help with the treatment of minor ailments, illnesses and injuries. This includes advising on the use of over-the-counter treatments, where appropriate, and when medical advice should be sought. The White Paper, "Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths—delivering the future", aims to increase pharmacies contribution to supporting effective self-care and make better use of the range of skills and services available in pharmacies.

NHS Choices and NHS Direct also offer facilities, such as online symptom checkers and self-assessment tools, to help people understand where self-care is appropriate in the treatment of minor ailments, and when they should seek advice from medical professionals.

Prescription Drugs

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 64-5W, on prescription drugs, what legal advice his Department sought in preparing the elements of the partial impact assessment relating to professional liability and automatic generic substitution; and if he will make a statement. [317846]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Legal advice from the Department of Health Legal Services did inform the formulation of the consultation document on generic substitution, and the partial impact assessment relating to the proposals, but there are no specific elements in the partial impact assessment relating to professional liability.

Under the Department's preferred approach (option 3), there are mechanisms for ensuring that patients continue to receive the most appropriate treatment. Therefore, we believe the liability risks associated with the proposed generic substitution arrangements should not be any greater than under current prescribing and dispensing arrangements. We recognise that further evidence may be available in relation to liability; stakeholders can input views through responding to the consultation in writing—details at

www.dh.gov.uk/en/consultations/index.htm

or by attending one of the consultation events—more information at

www.pcc.nhs.uk/events/

Prescriptions

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions for *(a)* goserelin, *(b)* leuprorelin acetate, *(c)* buserelin acetate, *(d)* triptorelin, *(e)* bicalutamide, *(f)* flutamide, *(g)* cyproterone acetate and *(h)* diethylstilbestrol there were in (i) England, (ii) each primary care trust area and (iii) each constituency in each year since 1997. [317713]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested has been placed in the Library, apart from constituency information, which is not collected centrally.

The tables provide the number of prescription items dispensed in the community by primary care trust (PCT) and nationally. Usage in hospital is not collected at prescription level, and usage cannot be attributed to particular PCTs.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of those with a diagnosis of asthma were exempt from paying prescription charges in the latest period for which figures are available. [316964]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not hold information on the numbers of patients prescribed particular drugs or for what conditions those drugs are prescribed.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date the age at which men are entitled to free prescriptions will rise in line with the increase in the state retirement age for women; and if he will make a statement. [317925]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The age at which people qualify for free prescriptions will change to reflect changes to the state pension age for women. We are considering how best to implement those changes and will not be introducing any changes to age exemptions in April 2010.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will extend the deadline before which primary care trusts must name their preferred option for their future organisational structure for the purposes of his Transforming Community Services programme to a date later than the end of March 2010; [317021]

(2) what factors he took into account in determining the timetable for the Transforming Community Services programme; and if he will make a statement. [317022]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There are no plans to extend the deadline set in the NHS Operating Framework 2010-11 for primary care trusts (PCTs) to agree their proposals for the future organisational form of all current PCT-provided community services with their strategic health authority.

When determining the timetable for planning and implementing proposals for the future form of PCT-provided community services, the Department took account of the need to create greater stability within community services to provide certainty for community service staff and a firm foundation for service transformation. Consideration was given to the pivotal role community services play in helping the national health service to meet the productivity and quality challenge. This will enable the NHS to accelerate service integration to deliver the vision of more integrated care delivered closer to home, as set out in NHS 2010-2015: from good to great. Preventative, people-centred, productive.

The Operating Framework 2010-11 and NHS 2010-2015: from good to great. Preventative, people-centred, productive have already been placed in the Library and are also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/index.htm

Primary Care Trusts: Procurement

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account his Department's guidance on primary care trust procurement takes of the policy on preferred providers of health services. [316312]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The "PCT Procurement Guide for Health Services" first published in May 2008 applies to all national health service-funded healthcare procurement. Primary care trusts as commissioners are expected to comply with this guidance as part of their obligations in the Operating Framework published in December 2007. The PCT Procurement Guide is currently being revised to take account of developments since 2008.

The Secretary of State's Vision document "NHS 2010-2015: From Good to Great" and the "NHS Operating Framework 2010/11" outline how we expect the NHS as preferred provider to work in practice. Copies of both documents have already been placed in the Library.

Primodos

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an estimate of the number of people there are in England who have been adversely affected by the drug Primodos. [317688]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Reports of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are collected by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and Commission for Human Medicines (CHM) through the spontaneous reporting scheme: the yellow card scheme. Approximately 25,000 reports of ADRs are reported to the MHRA/CHM through this scheme each year. The scheme collects ADR reports from across the whole United Kingdom and includes all medicines, including those from prescriptions, over-the-counter or general retail sales. It is not possible to calculate from yellow card data the number of people who have been adversely affected by a drug, as the scheme is associated with an unknown level of under-reporting.

Reporters of ADRs will often cite the active substance(s) rather than a particular brand name. As of 12 February 2010, there are three retrospective cases for Primodos and 3,540 that have been recorded in our database for the combined drug substances norethisterone and ethinylestradiol.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to assess the needs of those adversely affected by Primodos; and if he will make a statement. [317689]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have made no assessment. It is for local clinicians and multi-disciplinary teams to assess the health and care needs of people adversely affected by Primodos.

Prostate Cancer: Health Services

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median waiting time was for patients with a diagnosis of prostate cancer as an (i) in-patient and (ii) out-patient (A) in England and (B) in each NHS trust was in each year since 1997-98. [317711]

Ann Keen: Information on the mean and median time waited to be seen as an in-patient, for the first out-patient attendance where there was a primary diagnosis of prostate cancer, with figures provided for England and by hospital provider, has been placed in the Library.

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median length of an in-patient hospital stay was for patients with a diagnosis of prostate cancer (i) in England and (ii) in each NHS trust was in each year since 1997-98. [317712]

Ann Keen: Information on the mean and median length of stay for patients by NHS hospital provider for each year since 1997-98 where the primary diagnosis was prostate cancer has been placed in the Library.

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median referral-to-treatment waiting time has been for patients with a diagnosis of prostate cancer (i) in England and (ii) in each NHS trust in each month since January 2007. [317714]

Ann Keen: Statistics on average waiting times for cancer patients and average waiting times specifically for prostate cancer treatment are not collected centrally. The cancer waiting time standard of a maximum wait of 62 days from urgent referral for suspected cancer to first cancer treatment was introduced for all cancer patients from December 2005. In the last quarter for which figures are available (July to September 2009) national performance against this standard was 85.7 per cent.

Streptococcus: Pregnancy

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department issues to strategic health authorities on the availability of tests to pregnant women for Group B streptococcus infection; [317273]

(2) how many infant deaths were due to (a) early and (b) late onset Group B streptococcus infection in the latest period for which figures are available. [317274]

Ann Keen: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guidelines for routine antenatal care, published in 2008, recommends that pregnant women should not be offered routine antenatal screening for group B streptococcus because evidence of its clinical and cost-effectiveness remains uncertain.

The following table provides the number of infant deaths where there was mention of streptococcus, group B. It is not possible to determine onset of infections but numbers are presented for the neonatal and post-neonatal periods. In 2008, there were 3,281 infant deaths in total; 2,260 occurred in the neonatal period and 1,021 occurred in the post-neonatal period.

Number of infant deaths where there was mention of streptococcus group B[1], for England and Wales, 2008[2]

	Number of deaths
Neonatal[3]	26
Postneonatal[4]	3
Infant[5]	29

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where there was mention of streptococcus group B (corresponding ICD-10 codes are shown in Box 1).

[2] Figures for 2008 are provisional.

[3] Neonatal deaths under 28 days after live birth.

[4] Post-neonatal deaths at least 28 days but under one year after live birth.

[5] Infant deaths under a year after live birth.

Box 1. ICD-10 codes used to define infant deaths due to Group B streptococcus infection

Description	*ICD-10*
Septicaemia due to streptococcus, group B	A40.1
Pneumonia due to streptococcus, group B	J15.3
Congenital pneumonia due to streptococcus, group B	P23.3
Sepsis of newborn due to streptococcus, group B	P36.0

Strokes: Health Services

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve the provision of needs-based services to support stroke survivors and their carers in the long-term; and if he will make a statement. [317926]

Ann Keen: The National Stroke Strategy recommends that local action is needed to ensure that stroke features in local joint health needs assessments so that primary care trusts and local authorities can shape their local commissioning priorities accordingly. The Stroke Improvement Programme and the stroke networks are disseminating across the service good practice for needs-based services that has already been developed in some areas. In addition, local authorities are benefiting from £45 million over three years in ring-fenced grants to improve support services to adult stroke survivors and their carers in the community.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to require the provision of appropriate stroke-specific training for care home staff. [317927]

Ann Keen: It is the responsibility of individual social care employers to ensure that their staff are adequately trained for the role that they perform. However, we recognise that stroke survivors in care homes have particular needs and are currently considering what steps we can take to improve stroke specific training for care home staff.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to raise *(a)* public and *(b)* professional awareness of (i) risk factors for stroke and (ii) effective primary prevention measures at individual, family, community and societal levels; and if he will make a statement. [317930]

Ann Keen: The Department has run a series of campaigns to raise both public and professional awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle in reducing the risk of a number of diseases, including stroke. These include Change 4 Life, which is aimed at reducing obesity, Smokefree marketing to motivate people to stop smoking and direct them to national health service information and support and a jointly branded campaign with our stakeholders, including the Stroke Association, about the unseen damage that drinking can cause to long-term health. The link between alcohol and stroke was one of the key messages.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on public health measures to reduce exposure to risk factors for stroke in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [317931]

Ann Keen: This information is not available. The Department invests in a number of primary prevention measures to help people across different socio-economic groups address risk factors that are commonly associated with a number of diseases, including stroke. These help people to stop smoking, maintain a healthy weight, moderate their alcohol consumption and participate in more physical activity. For example, we are working across Government to make two million adults more physically active by 2012 and phasing in the implementation of the NHS Health Check programme that is designed to reduce an individual's risk of a number of vascular diseases including stroke.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to develop community-based stroke prevention services with the voluntary sector, the NHS and local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [317932]

Ann Keen: The National Stroke Strategy recognises the importance of educating people about the risk of stroke and associated prevention measures. It asks that local assessments should be made of how effectively areas are supporting healthier lifestyles and taking action to tackle vascular risk including hypertension, atrial fibrillation and high cholesterol.

Phased implementation of the NHS Health Check programme began in April 2009. This programme is designed to reduce an individual's risk of a number of vascular diseases including stroke. Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for commissioning. The programme has been designed so that it can be delivered from a variety of settings and by different providers where they have undergone appropriate training. PCTs may, therefore, use a range of providers, including the third sector, to deliver the programme.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department plans to implement the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of transient ischaemic attack and minor stroke; and if he will make a statement. [317933]

Ann Keen: Implementation of the 'Diagnosis and initial management of acute stroke and transient ischaemic attack (TIA)' guidance is the responsibility of local commissioners and providers. It is the responsibility of commissioners in consultation with their providers to procure the stroke services for their populations.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will issue guidance to ambulance services on the agreement of stroke protocols with hospitals with acute and hyper-acute stroke units. [317938]

Ann Keen: We are not planning to issue such guidance. The Royal College of Physicians' Stroke Sentinel Audit of 2008 showed that there has been a striking improvement in the number of protocols ambulance services have for the management of stroke patients. It shows that between 2006 and 2008 the percentage of primary care trusts having arrangements with their local ambulance service for emergency/rapid transfer to hospital for specialist acute stroke care services has risen from 12 per cent. to 49 per cent. It is the responsibility of the NHS locally to develop these arrangements.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will issue guidance on the treatment of stroke as an emergency, with particular reference to appropriate access to brain scanning and thrombolysis and immediate admission to an acute stroke unit. [317939]

Ann Keen: The National Stroke Strategy recommends that everyone who can benefit from urgent stroke care should be transferred to an acute stroke centre that provides 24-hour access to scans and care in a specialist stroke unit.

The 2009 National Sentinel Audit of stroke undertaken by the Royal College of Physicians shows that the number of stroke units providing thrombolysis is increasing and that the provision of these services out of hours remains a challenge. Local stroke care networks have been established to assist in improving the delivery of stroke services. This includes working with health care professionals to ensure urgent admission to an acute stroke unit, timely access to scanning and the provision of thrombolysis where appropriate. All hospitals provide CT scanning and most provide MRI and carotid doppler and the Department published an imaging guide in 2008, to help ensure that imaging services develop in line with the quality markers in the National Stroke Strategy.

To further encourage improvements in stroke care, in April 2010 we will introduce a Best Practice Tariff for stroke which incentivises direct admission to a stroke unit and timely brain imaging. We will continue to improve care for stroke patients by ensuring that more patients, for whom there is potential benefit, have a brain scan within one hour of their admission. However, thrombolysis can only be delivered safely by experienced teams. Hospitals should not aim to provide thrombolysis before the associated components of the service are functioning well and are of high quality. It is not appropriate, therefore, for every hospital to deliver a thrombolysis service.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to provide for every patient with stroke to be treated in a high quality stroke unit for the duration of their hospital treatment. [317940]

Ann Keen: The National Stroke Strategy recognises that stroke unit care is the single biggest factor that can improve a person's outcome following a stroke. We have, therefore, made this a top priority for the national health service. The tier 1 vital sign in the NHS Operating Framework aims to ensure that, by March 2011, 80 per cent. of patients with stroke spend at least 90 per cent. of their time in hospital on a stroke unit. This recognises that there are times when a patient, for clinical reasons, might need to spend time in the care of others outside a stroke unit.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to require all stroke units to meet the criteria set out in clinical stroke guidelines and by the British Association of Stroke Physicians. [317941]

Ann Keen: The National Stroke Strategy sets out twenty quality markers outlining the features of a good stroke service. In developing the strategy, we consulted experts in the field and used the most up-to-date clinical guidelines, including those from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and the nine key indicators used in the Royal College of Physicians' National Sentinel Stroke Audit.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will issue guidance on the *(a)* appropriate knowledge and skills relating to stroke and *(b)* appropriate training in stroke for all NHS staff working in emergency and acute care. [317942]

Ann Keen: Standard setting for the knowledge and skills required of those working with stroke patients is for the relevant professional bodies. It is for local areas to review, plan for and develop a stroke-skilled work force. Standard setting also guides commissioners on the criteria against which to judge services that they will commission.

The Department set up the UK Forum for Stroke Training through which the Stroke Specific Education Framework has been developed. This framework reflects the elements of the stroke care pathway from prevention through to long-term care which will facilitate links between training, education, work force competences and professional development. It aims to build on the generic skills that health, social, voluntary and independent care staff already possess through the clear identification of additional stroke-specific knowledge and skills. Its purpose is to ensure quality in stroke care by supporting stroke specialist and stroke relevant career pathways and course design and promoting recognised and transferable training and qualifications.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated under the National Stroke Strategy to each local authority in Tyne and Wear; and in which years those allocations were *(a)* made and *(b)* spent on each (i) project and (ii) service. [318007]

Ann Keen: Ring-fenced grants are being provided to all 152 local authorities in England over the three years 2008-09 to 2010-11 for the provision of support services to adult stroke survivors and their carers in the community. The ring-fenced grants total £45 million over the three years which means that each local authority receives an average of £100,000 a year. A local authority circular has been issued that sets out the kind of services that these grants might be used to fund. Annex B of the circular also lists the funding allocated to local authorities. The local authority circular can be found at the following web address:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/LocalAuthorityCirculars/AllLocalAuthority/DH_098601

The Department does not collect information on how local authorities spend these grants.

Strokes: Mental Health

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list *(a)* the causes of (i) stroke, (ii) dementia and (iii) depression and *(b)* the proportion of cases attributable to each such factor in the last 12 months. [316282]

Ann Keen: The information on the causes of stroke, dementia and depression is not held centrally.

There are many causes of stroke, dementia and depression and this information is widely available in the public domain. For example, the NHS Choices website lists the causes for stroke, dementia and depression on its website:

www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Pages/bodymap.aspx

Surgery

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were conducted in each strategic health authority area in England in each of the last three years. [316753]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) where a main procedure or intervention was performed, broken down by strategic health authority (SHA) of treatment for the years 2006-07 to 2008-09 is shown in the following table:

SHA	*SHA of treatment*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
Total		9,274,423	8,606,493	7,888,074
Q30	North East SHA	572,040	531,912	491,678
Q31	North West SHA	1,394,767	1,294,042	1,143,980
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	981,160	902,896	840,971
Q33	East Midlands SHA	700,812	664,188	616,908
Q34	West Midlands SHA	991,949	909,925	876,376
Q35	East of England SHA	913,552	848,822	778,642
Q36	London Strategic SHA	1,403,602	1,304,337	1,206,929
Q37	South East Coast SHA	658,067	605,049	551,229
Q38	South Central SHA	611,945	575,613	505,462
Q39	South West SHA	1,050,513	969,707	875,898
Q99	Wales	16	2	0
Y	Unknown	0	0	1

Notes:

1. FCE is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.
2. The main procedure is first recorded procedure or intervention in each episode, usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode. In some cases a patient may undertake more than one procedure as part of the same episode. The data does not include the number of secondary procedures undertaken at the same time as the main procedures.
3. SHA of treatment indicates the strategic health authority where the treatment took place.
4. Where Wales is shown as the SHA of treatment, the figure relates to patients who were treated by an English independent provider who also have sites in Wales, where these treatments took place.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care

Surgery: Operating Costs

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the net cost to the NHS per theatre hour used was of each operating theatre in England in each of the last five years. [316752]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Teenage Pregnancy

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pregnancies of girls aged between 15 and 19 years there were in each of the last 30 years; and what assessment he has made of trends in the level of such pregnancies. [317966]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated February 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent question asking the Secretary of State for Health, how many pregnancies of girls aged between 15 and 19 years there were in each of the last 30 years; and what assessment has been made of trends in the level of such pregnancies. (317966) I am replying in his absence.

The table attached provides the statistics that are available on a consistent basis and follows the standard way of presenting these data. The table gives the number of conceptions among girls aged (a) under 16, (b) 16-19 years and (c) under 20, and rates of conceptions for (d) under 16 and (e) under 20, for England and Wales for 1987 to 2007 (the most recent year for which figures are available). Figures specifically for girls aged between 15 and 19 years could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Figures on conceptions are estimates based on the number of live births, stillbirths or legal abortions. They do not include miscarriages and illegal abortions. Prior to 1987, a woman's age at conception was calculated on a different basis and therefore it is not possible to accurately compare the level of conceptions prior to 1987 against levels in subsequent years.

Rates have been included in the table provided as rates take account of changes in population sizes and therefore provide a better measure of the proportion of women who conceive each year.

Conceptions[1] to women aged (a) under 16 years[2] and 16-19 years[2] in England and Wales[3], 1987-2007[4]

	Number of conceptions (thousand)			Rate per 1,000[5]	
	Age of woman at conception			Age of woman at conception	
Year	(a) Under 16[6]	(b) 16-19 years[6]	(c) Under 20[6]	(d) Under 16[6]	(e) Under 20[6]
1987	8.6	112.7	121.3	8.8	65.2
1988	8.3	110.6	118.9	8.8	65.8
1989	8.0	107.7	115.7	8.9	66.8
1990	8.1	105.2	113.3	9.5	68.0
1991	7.5	94.1	101.6	8.9	64.1
1992	7.2	86.2	93.4	8.4	61.9
1993	7.3	79.9	87.2	[illegible].1	59.7
1994	7.8	77.6	85.4	8.3	58.7
1995	8.1	78.5	86.6	8.6	58.7
1996	8.9	86.0	94.9	9.5	63.2
1997	8.3	87.7	96.0	8.9	62.6
1998	8.5	93.1	101.6	9.0	65.1
1999	7.9	90.9	98.8	8.3	63.1
2000	8.1	89.6	97.7	8.3	62.5
2001	7.9	88.1	96.0	8.0	60.8
2002	7.9	89.2	97.1	7.9	60.6
2003	8.0	90.6	98.6	7.9	60.0
2004	7.6	93.7	101.3	7.5	60.3
2005	7.9	94.4	102.3	7.8	60.1
2006	7.8	95.3	103.1	7.8	60.2
2007	8.2	98.1	106.3	8.3	61.7

[1] Figures on conceptions are based on the number of live births, stillbirths or legal abortions. They do not include miscarriages and illegal abortions.

[2] Age at estimated date of conception.

[3] Women usually resident in England and Wales.

[4] Years for which the method used for estimating woman's age at conception was consistent. 2007 is the most recent year for which figures are available.

[5] Number of conceptions to women under 16 per 1,000 female population aged 13-15 and to women under 20 per 1,000 female population aged 15-18.

[6] Data have been published in groups—'under 16' and 'under 20'. Due to small numbers 'under 16' has been included as a group. Age 16-19 was calculated by subtracting the 'under 16' figure from the 'under 20'.

Urology: Health Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department has issued to *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* regional procurement hubs in ensuring that commissioning arrangements for the provision of urology and stoma devices takes account of the outcomes of the most recent Part IX review consultation; [317934]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the use of local tenders and product formularies for urology products does not affect the availability of Part IX products to patients who gain access to them through the prescription process; [317936]

(3) what mechanisms his Department plans to put in place to ensure consistency in the use of local tenders and product formularies for urology products and services in primary care, with particular reference to the outcomes of the most recent Part IX review consultation. [317935]

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment has been made of the effects on levels of competition in the urology industry of the development of local primary care trust tenders for the provision of urology products and services; and if he will make a statement; [317340]

(2) what assessment has been made of the effects on patient choice of the increasing use of tenders and formularies in primary care for urology and stoma products and services; and if he will make a statement; [317341]

(3) what his Department is doing to ensure that the use of local primary care trust tenders and product formularies for urology products does not prevent patients being able to access their choice of Part IX products via the normal prescription process; and if he will make a statement. [317342]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Any decisions to undertake local procurement activity rests with the national health service organisations that initiate them.

Following the review of the supply of certain appliances for primary care, as listed in part IX of the Drug Tariff, new arrangements were announced in April 2009 and the relevant amendment regulations were laid on 22 December 2009. These are accompanied by directions to provide for new advanced services. There will also be changes to the Drug Tariff from 1 April 2010 to take account of associated new fees and allowances and a reduction of reimbursement prices for some appliances.

The Department is in ongoing dialogue with industry, industry trade federations, collaborative procurement hubs and primary care trusts (PCTs) over the use of local tenders and product formularies for products and services covered by part IX of the Drug Tariff. The aim of this dialogue is to agree clear guidance for PCTs on this matter.

The Department is not aware of any ongoing local tenders for part IX products. Any local procurement or tenders do not override the clinical judgment of the GP, who is still free to prescribe products listed in part IX of the Drug Tariff to meet the specific needs of patients.

CABINET OFFICE

10 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 251W, on 10 Downing Street, how purchase orders for expenditure on renovation and refurbishment are *(a)* authorised and *(b)* electronically held; how quotations are obtained in advance of work on renovation and refurbishment; and how the Total Facilities Management Provider is reimbursed for expenditure on renovation and refurbishment over and above routine maintenance. [315220]

Ms Butler: All expenditure incurred by the Cabinet Office is procured and authorised in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in 'Managing Public Money' and the Treasury handbook on 'Regularity & Propriety'. The departmental guidance is available to all staff on the Cabinet Office intranet.

Only staff with the appropriate delegated financial authority may authorise Cabinet Office expenditure.

Central Office of Information: Marketing

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* title and *(b)* notional budget is of each advertising and marketing campaign co-ordinated through the Central Office of Information in 2009-10. [315203]

Angela E. Smith: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 8 February 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [315203] regarding Government Campaigns co-ordinated through COI.

This information is not held centrally within COI and could only be made available at disproportionate cost.

Campaigns for the current year may not, at present, have the final title and release of such information may be misleading.

Budgets for campaigns are not held by COI but by the commissioning department.

Accurate information for the current financial year will only be published once the annual accounts have been fully audited.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the Central Office of Information press release of 11 December 2009, on the merchandising and promotional items framework, how much the Central Office of Information has spent on promotional food and drink products in each of the last three years; what suppliers were used; and on behalf of which public bodies promotional food and drink was procured. [315223]

Angela E. Smith: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 8 February 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [315223] regarding the Merchandising and Promotional Framework.

The only company used for promotional products included in the new framework, in each of the last 3 financial years, was Sweet Concepts ltd. This was prior to the start of the specific framework mentioned.

Promotional products were purchased on behalf of the following clients:

British Transport Police
Health and Safety Executive
Home Office
Learning and Skills Council
University for Industry
Royal Air Force
Dept of Health
Police Information Technology Organisation.

	Total (£)
2006-07	22,303.80
2007-08	11,666.99
2008-09	7,417.00

Charities

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will request the Charity Commission to require charities which have been found by the Commission to have raised money for a purpose outside their charitable objects to post information to this effect on their website and to indicate the steps they are taking to return such donations to the donors. [317183]

Angela E. Smith: The Charity Commission is an independent non-ministerial Government Department responsible for the support and supervision of charities in England and Wales under the Charities Acts 1993 and 2006. The Charity Commission is not subject to ministerial direction or control, and it would not be appropriate for me to make such a request. However, I have made the Charity Commission aware of your concerns.

A charity should take immediate action if it realises that it has made an appeal outside of its purposes. Where possible, it would be necessary for the charity running the appeal to contact the donors to clarify the basis on which they made their donation. The next steps would depend on the circumstances of the appeal and should be taken in consultation with the Charity Commission.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps the Charity Commission is taking to ensure that charities file their accounts with the Commission within the prescribed timescales. [317184]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 11 February 2010:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on what steps the Charity Commission is taking to ensure that charities file their accounts with the Commission within the prescribed timescales (317184).

To ensure that charities file their accounts within the prescribed time limit the Commission:

issues reminders by letter or email three months and one month prior to the submission deadline;

makes telephone contact with charities with income in excess of £5 million if they do not respond to written reminders;

clearly highlights any failure to submit accounts on the online public Register of Charities.

These measures are supported by periodic press campaigns, most recently the Commission's File on Time campaign launched in February 2010.

Charities that fail to comply may be subject to enforcement action or may be removed from the Register if it appears that they are no longer operating.

The percentage of charities filing accounts on time has risen from 66% in 2006 to 81% in the year to January 2010. In 2008-9, 94% of the sector's income was accounted for in annual accounts filed within the ten month deadline.

I hope this is helpful.

Civil Servants: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were employed by *(a)* local government, *(b)* central government, *(c)* public corporations and *(d)* the Civil Service in (i) 1996 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. [312186]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many people were employed by (a) local government, (b) central government, (c) public corporations and (d) the Civil Service in (i) 1996 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. I am replying in his absence. (312186)

Estimates of employment for the public sector are taken from the ONS release on Public Sector Employment at

www.statistics.gov.uk

Data for the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES) is collected on a quarterly basis; the latest date for which information is available is September 2009 (Annex A).

Annex A. Employment in (a) local government, (b) central government, (c) public corporations and (d) the Civil Service in (i) 1996 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available

United Kingdom; Headcount (thousands); Not seasonally adjusted

	Local Government	*Central Government*[1]	*Public Corporations*[2]	*Civil Service*[1]
1996	2,737	2,144	394	538
2009 Q3	2,901	2,596	565	533

[1] Home Civil Service (excludes Northern Ireland Civil Service which is included in Central Government).

[2] Royal Bank of Scotland Group and Lloyds Banking Group classified to public sector from 13 October 2008.

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Death: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 800W, on death: liver diseases, how many alcohol-related deaths there were in the latest year for which figures are available, excluding deaths with an underlying cause of chronic liver disease and cirrhosis that do not mention alcohol as a contributing factor. [317565]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question pursuant to the Answer of 8 February 2010, Official Report, column 800W, on death: liver diseases, how many alcohol-related deaths there were in the latest year for which figures are available, excluding deaths with an underlying cause of chronic liver disease and cirrhosis that do not mention alcohol as a contributing factor. (317565)

Figures provided in the previous Answer were the number of deaths with an underlying cause of (a) chronic liver disease and (b) cirrhosis, and the number of cases where alcohol is also mentioned on the death certificate as a contributing factor, in England and Wales, in 2008 (the latest year available) (Table 1).

According to the National Statistics definition, there were 7,344 deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in England and Wales in 2008 (the latest year available).[1, 2, 3]

The causes of death included in the previous Answer for chronic liver disease are not all included within the National Statistics definition of alcohol-related deaths. The causes listed for cirrhosis are included both in the causes for chronic liver disease and in the National Statistics definition. The causes of death previously given for chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, conditions which mention alcohol and the National Statistics alcohol-related deaths definition are listed below in Box 1.

Of the 6,514 deaths where chronic liver disease was the underlying cause of death in England and Wales in 2008,[4, 2, 3] 6,320 are included within the National Statistics definition of alcohol-related deaths (Figure 1).[5] Of these, there were 4,781 deaths where alcohol was mentioned on the death certificate as a contributing factor, and 1,539 deaths where there was no explicit mention of alcohol (Figure 2).[6]

There were 5,805 deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause, excluding deaths where the underlying cause was chronic liver disease (within the National Statistics definition) and alcohol was not mentioned on the death certificate as a contributing factor, in England and Wales, in 2008.[2, 3]

This figure was derived by subtracting the number of deaths where chronic liver disease (within the National Statistics definition) was the underlying cause of death and there was no mention of alcohol on the death certificate (1,539) from the total number of alcohol-related deaths (7,344).

Internationally accepted guidance from the World Health Organisation requires only those conditions that contributed directly to the death to be recorded on the death certificate. Medical practitioners and coroners are not supposed to record all of the diseases or conditions present at or before death, and whether a condition contributed is a matter for their clinical judgement. Lifestyle and behavioural factors, such as the deceased's alcohol consumption, are not recorded.

Although not all deaths coded to liver disease and cirrhosis include a mention of alcohol on the death certificate, most are included in the official definition of alcohol-related deaths on the assumption that many of them were caused by alcohol, even if this was not explicitly stated.

Death: Cancer

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the age-standardised mortality rate from prostate cancer was in *(a)* England, *(b)* each primary care trust area and *(c)* each constituency in each year since 1997-98; [317707]

(2) how many deaths from prostate cancer there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* each primary care trust area and *(c)* each constituency in each year since 1997-98. [317708][1]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking (1) what the age-standardised mortality rate from prostate cancer was in (a) England, (b) each primary care trust area and (c) each constituency in each year since 1997-98 (317707) and (2) how many deaths from prostate cancer there were in (a) England, (b) each primary care trust area and (c) each constituency in each year since 1997-98. (317708)

The tables attached provide:

(1) The age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population, where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death, for (a) England, for the years 1997 to 2008 (the latest year available) (Table 1), (b) primary care organisations in England, for the years 2001 to 2008 (the only period available) (Table 2), and (c) parliamentary constituencies in England, for the years 2001 to 2007 (the only period available) (Table 3).

(2) The number of deaths where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death, for (a) England and (b) primary care organisations in England, for the years 1997 to 2008 (the latest year available) (Tables 4 and 5), and (c) parliamentary constituencies in England, for the years 1997-02 and 2003-08 combined (the only periods available) (Table 6).

A copy of Tables 2, 3, 5 and 6 have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Mortality rates for primary care organisations and parliamentary constituencies can only be calculated for the periods given due to the availability of mid-year population estimates. Numbers of deaths for parliamentary constituencies have not been given for individual years in line with the current ONS policy on protecting confidentiality within birth and death statistics.

Table 1: Number of deaths where breast cancer was the underlying cause of death, England and Wales, 2008[1, 2, 3]

Cause of death	*Deaths (persons)*
Breast cancer	10,779

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C50.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Death: Drugs and Alcoholic Drinks

Chris Grayling: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information her Department holds for benchmarking purposes on the death rates in respect of *(a)* drug and *(b)* alcohol abuse in other EU member states. [315704]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

Information on drug abuse and alcohol abuse deaths is collected by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

"Deaths related to drug poisoning in England and Wales, 2008", is the latest available information on drug misuse deaths and was published by ONS in August 2009. A copy has been placed in the Library. It provided drug misuse death data by gender, age group, time and by specific drugs.

On behalf of the four United Kingdom health departments, we provide UK drug-related death information to the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). The EMCDDA receives drug-related death information from all European Union member states and some other European countries and publishes these data annually as a statistical bulletin available from the EMCDDA website:

http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/

though there are limitations on the comparability of data from different states.

"Alcohol-related deaths in the United Kingdom 1991-2008", is the latest available information on alcohol-related deaths and was published by ONS in January 2010. A copy has been placed in the Library.

European data on selected alcohol-related causes of death per 100,000 of population are held by the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe on the European 'health for all' online database:

http://data.euro.who.int/hfadb/

Although this can be a helpful indicator for ranking countries by alcohol-related mortality, it is important to note that it does not include all known alcohol-related causes of death and is not directly comparable with ONS alcohol-related death data.

Death: Fuel Poverty

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the number of excess winter deaths of persons aged 65 or over attributable to fuel poverty in January 2010. [316862]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 9 February 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what was the number of excess winter deaths of persons aged 65 or over attributable to fuel poverty in January 2010. (316862)

Estimates of excess winter deaths are based on the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July). Provisional estimated figures for excess winter mortality in the winter period 2009/10 will be published in November 2010.

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[1] *[Official Report, 15 March 2010, Vol. 507, c. 16-18MC.]*

It is not possible to say from the information collected at death registration whether excess winter deaths are attributable to fuel poverty or any other social or economic circumstances.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Leader of the House's Office spent on *(a)* first class and *(b)* business class flights in the last 12 months. [317270]

Angela E. Smith: Provision of a complete and accurate response would require a full interrogation of the corporate travel contract management information, Government Procurement Card (GPC) records and expenses claims for the period requested. This would therefore incur disproportionate costs.

However, since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the financial year 2008-09 was published on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 66-70WS. All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which works of art from the Government Art Collection are on display in *(a)* No. 10 Downing Street and *(b)* the Prime Minister's personal residence; and which other works of art have been on display at each such location since June 2007. [312285]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 94W. A list of the works of art will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Leader of the House's Office has had any contracts with external consultants in 2009-10. [317269]

Angela E. Smith: Up until 31 January 2010, the Leader of the House's Office did not have any contracts with external consultants in 2009-10.

Departmental Energy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the estimated *(a)* amount and *(b)* cost was of energy used in her Department and its agency in each year since 1997; what proportion of the energy used was generated from renewable sources in each of those years; and if she will make a statement. [317231]

Ms Butler: The information requested is in the following table. This information covers the Cabinet Office's central London estate. Information prior to 2005-06 is available only at disproportionate cost.

	Annual consumption (kWh)	*Cost of utilities (£)*	*Percentage of renewable energy*
2005-06	17,485,892	1,502,409	43.2
2006-07	16,682,196	1,608,105	45.7
2007-08	14,808,607	1,422,722	50.2
2008-09	16,384,746	2,232,021	60.0
2009-10 (to date)	11,774,435	1,256,662	67.1

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* the Charity Commission and *(c)* the Central Office of Information (i) have the status of embedded communicators and (ii) are members of the Government Communications Network but are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book. [315166]

Ms Butler: Cabinet Office currently has no staff with the status of embedded communicators.

To provide information on how many members of Cabinet Office staff are members of the GCN but not listed in the White Book could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I have asked the chief executives of the Charity Commission *(b)* and the Central Office of Information *(c)* to-write in reply to the hon. Member's question.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 3 February 2010:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your Parliamentary Question regarding how many of our staff (i) have the status of "embedded communicators" and (ii) are members of the Government Communications Network but are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book. I will arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

We have no employees with the status of "embedded communicators". There are two Charity Commission employees who are members of the Government Communications Network (GCN) but not listed in the current edition of the White Book. The post of Head of Corporate Affairs is listed in the current edition of the White Book as being filled by someone who is no longer in the role. Therefore the current postholder, a member of the GCN, is not listed by name in the White Book. In addition, our Internal Communications Manager is a member of the GCN but this post is not listed in the White Book.

I hope this is helpful.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 2 February 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [315166] asking how many staff in the Central Office of Information (i) have the status of embedded communicators and (ii) are members of the Government Communications Network but are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book.

(i) COI has no staff defined as embedded communicators.

(ii) This information is not available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Mass Media

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1040W, on departmental publications, if she will place in the Library hard copy print outs of the daily online news service bulletin for the period from 1 January 2010 to date. [312462]

Ms Butler: The Cabinet Office provides a staff intranet which has a main news story that changes frequently. The audience is internal Cabinet Office staff. Personal details of staff appear in these internal news stories on the understanding that they will be used for internal purposes only. Printing copies and placing them in the Libraries of the House, or other 'public' areas, would infringe staff privacy.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Scott: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in the Office of the Leader of the House in each year since 2003. [306460]

Angela E. Smith: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1061W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* year end and *(b)* in-year bonuses were paid to officials in the Prime Minister's Office in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in such bonuses in each such year. [307106]

Angela E. Smith: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Ilford, North (Mr. Scott) on 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1061W.

Life Expectancy: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average life expectancy was for *(a)* women and *(b)* men in Salford in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009. [317395]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average life expectancy was for (a) women and (b) men in Salford in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009. (317395)

Life expectancy figures are calculated as three year rolling averages. The table below provides the period life expectancy at birth for (a) women and (b) men in Salford local authority, for (i) 1996-98 and (ii) 2006-08 (the latest figures available).

Table 1. Period life expectancy at birth[1], Salford local authority[2], 1996-98 and 2006-08[3]

		Years of life
	Males	*Females*
1996-98	72	77
2006-08	75	79

[1] Period life expectancy at birth is an estimate of the average number of years a newborn baby would survive if he or she experienced the area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout his or her life. The figure reflects mortality among those living in the area in each time period, rather than mortality among those born in each area. It is not therefore the number of years a baby born in the area in each time period could actually expect to live, both because the death rates of the area are likely to change in the future and because many of those born in the area will live elsewhere for at least some part of their lives.

[2] Using boundaries as of 2009 for all the years shown.

[3] Three year rolling averages, based on deaths registered in each year and mid-year population estimates.

Lobbying: Registration

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what timetable she has set for the lobbying industry to develop a voluntary register of lobbying activity. [312183]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the right hon. Member to my response during the debate on lobbying in Westminster Hall on 7 January 2010.

Media Monitoring Unit

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 975W, on Media Monitoring Unit, what the difference is between the subscribers referred to as the Cabinet Office and Cabinet Office Communications; and which subscriber incurred the £25,200 of expenditure referred to. [315281]

Angela E. Smith: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 8 February 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [315281] asking for clarification on the Media Monitoring Unit.

The MMU provides in-depth news briefings for press officers, policy officials and Ministers across all government departments, the public sector and regional public bodies.

The subscription information listed for Cabinet Office included all work carried out on their behalf.

The Information listed as Cabinet Office Communications was work carried out on behalf of another department.

The subscription listed as blank has already been included in the subscription for a department within the table and should be disregarded.

New Businesses: Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many businesses have started up in Feltham and Heston constituency since 1997. [316696]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 9 February 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many businesses have started up in Feltham and Heston constituency since 1997. [316696]

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available for 2002 onwards from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available on business births for Feltham and Heston.

Enterprise births for Feltham and Heston 2002 to 2008

	Total
2002	356
2003	421
2004	431
2005	496

Enterprise births for Feltham and Heston 2002 to 2008

	Total
2006	436
2007	411
2008	455

Part-time Employment: Working Mothers

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the proportion of women with children who worked fewer than 16 hours a week in each year since 1997. [317140]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on the proportion of women with children who worked fewer than 16 hours a week in each year since 1997. (317140)

The information requested is given in table 1 attached. The figures are from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) household datasets for the three months ending June for each year requested.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. Table 2 shows the percentage and confidence interval for the three months ending June 2009. This is to give an indication as to the accuracy of the most recent estimate, and how much it could vary if taken from a different sample. The estimate is such that there is 95 per cent certainty that from all samples possible it will lie within the lower and upper bounds.

Table 1: Percentage of working age[1] mothers with dependent children[2] who worked fewer than 16 hours[3] a week, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted April to June 1997-2009

	Percentage[4]
1997	14.8
1998	14.5
1999	14.2
2000	13.4
2001	12.3
2002	11.9
2003	11.9
2004	11.5
2005	10.4
2006	10.5
2007	10.4
2008	9.2
2009	9.3

[1] Women aged 16 to 59.

[2] Children under 16 and those aged 16-18 who have never married and in full-time education.

[3] Total usual hours worked in main job (excluding overtime), excludes those not in employment.

[4] Denominator is all working age women with depe[illegible]hildren.

Source:

LFS household datasets.

Table 2: Percentage of working age[1] mothers with dependent children[2] who worked fewer than 16 hours[3] a week with 95 per cent. confidence interval[4] United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted April to June 2009

	Percentage[5]	Lower CI	Upper CI
2009	9.3	8.8	9.7

[1] Women aged 16 to 59.

[2] Children under 16 and those aged 16-18 who have never married and in full-time education.

[3] Total usual hours worked in main job (excluding overtime), excludes those not in employment.

[4] 95 per cent. confidence interval which means that from all samples possible there would be 95 per cent. certainty that the true estimate would lie within the lower and upper bounds.

[5] Denominator is all working age women with dependent children.

Source:

LFS household datasets.

Prostate Cancer

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* age-standardised incidence rate for prostate cancer and *(b)* number of diagnoses of prostate cancer was in (i) each strategic health authority area, (ii) each primary care trust area and (iii) each constituency in each year since 1997. [317709]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) age-standardised incidence rate for prostate cancer and (b) number of diagnoses of prostate cancer was in (i) each strategic health authority area, (ii) each primary care trust area and (iii) each constituency in each year since 1997. [317709]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer (incidence) are for the year 2007. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

Cancer incidence rates for strategic health authorities can only be calculated from 2002 onwards and for primary care organisations and parliamentary constituencies from 2001 onwards due to the availability of mid-year population estimates for those areas.

The number of cases in parliamentary constituencies has not been given for individual years in line with policy on protecting confidentiality within patients' data.

The tables attached provide the age-standardised incidence rate per 100,000 population, for prostate cancer, for (i) strategic health authorities in England, for the years 2002 to 2007 (Table 1), (ii) primary care organisations in England for the years 2001 to 2007 (Table 2), and (iii) parliamentary constituencies in England for the years 2001 to 2007 combined (Table 3), the number of diagnoses (incidence) for prostate cancer for (i) strategic health authorities in England and (ii) primary care organisations in England, for the years 1997-2007 (Tables 4 and 5), and (iii) parliamentary constituencies in England for the years 1997-02 and 2003-07 combined (Table 6).

A copy of Tables 2, 3, 5 and 6 has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Table 1: Age-standardised incidence rates per 100,000 population, prostate cancer, strategic health authorities in England, 2002-07[1,2,3,4]

						Cases per 100,000 (males)
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
North East	90	97	86	93	86	86
North West	88	90	108	101	104	96
Yorkshire and the Humber	89	89	101	96	101	97

Table 1: Age-standardised incidence rates per 100,000 population, prostate cancer, strategic health authorities in England, 2002-07[1, 2, 3, 4]

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
					Cases per 100,000 (males)	
East Midlands	84	82	94	99	101	99
West Midlands	102	102	109	104	105	97
East of England	99	95	99	101	100	99
London	96	96	98	93	95	94
South East Coast	88	88	92	89	93	91
South Central	110	107	116	99	106	99
South West	110	112	116	104	110	108

[1] Age-standardised incidence rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.
[2] Prostate cancer is coded as C61 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[4] Based on newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

Table 4: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer, males, strategic health authorities in England, 1997-2007[1, 2, 3]

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Males 2007
North East	897	1,066	1,234	1,249	1,415	1,404	1,499	1,365	1,471	1,385	1,394
North West	2,555	2,627	2,846	3,107	3,657	3,533	3,631	4,400	4,177	4,329	4,058
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,860	1,825	1,940	2,394	2,664	2,647	2,697	3,059	2,944	3,129	3,064
East Midlands	1,465	1,531	1,751	1,971	2,152	2,185	2,147	2,528	2,672	2,809	2,793
West Midlands	2,091	2,252	2,415	2,741	3,096	3,254	3,299)	3,547	3,427	3,516	3,305
East of England	2,275	2,276	2,630	2,974	3,257	3,367	3,309	3,459	3,579	3,623	3,611
London	2,614	2,673	2,766	2,832	3,133	3,172	3,160	3,252	3,089	3,133	3,117
South East Coast	2,098	2,008	2,254	2,331	2,501	2,368	2,380	2,498	2,408	2,546	2,555
South Central	1,488	1,648	1,831	2,071	2,398	2,401	2,373	2,619	2,262	2,46[illegible]	2,348
South West	2,641	2,537	2,698	2,886	3,638	3,813	3,899	4,095	3,752	4,022	3,956

[1] Prostate cancer is coded as C61 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[3] Based on newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

Unemployment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many economically inactive people of working age wanted employment in the most recent year for which figures are available. [317339]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many economically inactive people of working age wanted employment in the most recent year for which figures are available. (317339)

Estimates of economic inactivity are available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). In accordance with the International Labour Organization (ILO) definition, people are classed as economically inactive if they are neither in employment nor unemployed.

The most recent estimates are for the three-month period September-November 2009 and show that 2.308 million seasonally adjusted economically inactive people of working age wanted a job. This estimate comprises those who have not been looking for work in the last four weeks, but who say they would like a regular paid job, plus those who have been looking for work but who were unable to start within two weeks.

These estimates are published in Table 13 of the Labour Market Statistical Bulletin.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. Indications of the sampling variability of LFS aggregate estimates are provided in the Statistical Bulletin.

Unemployment: Kingston upon Thames

Mr. Davey: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the unemployed claimant count in *(a)* the Royal Borough of Kingston and *(b)* Kingston and Surbiton constituency was in (i) 1997, (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2009. [317717]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the unemployed claimant count in (a) the Royal Borough of Kingston and (b) Kingston and Surbiton constituency was in (i) 1997 (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2009. (317717)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. Table 1 shows the number of people resident in the London borough of Kingston upon Thames and

Kingston and Surbiton parliamentary constituency claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) in December 2009, December 2005 and December 1997.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in the London borough of Kingston upon Thames and Kingston and Surbiton parliamentary constituency

As at December	*Kingston upon Thames*	*Kingston and Surbiton*
1997	2,009	1,559
2005	1,464	1,157
2009	2,403	1,896

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Administrative System

Unemployment: North West

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for how long on average claimants aged between 18 and 24 years resident in each local authority area in the North West were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* each of the last 12 months and *(b)* each of the last five years. [317206]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for how long on average claimants aged between 18 and 24 years resident in each local authority area in the North West were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in (a) each of the last 12 months and (b) each of the last five years. (317206)

The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) is taken from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. The length of a claim has been defined as the time between the start of an individual's claim and the count date in each reference month. Table 1 shows the median length of live claims during the last 12 months up to the latest available period in December 2009, and for December of each of the last 5 years.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Median length of claims of jobseeker's allowance of persons' aged 18 to 24 resident in local authorities in the North West

Months

	December					*2009*											
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Allerdale	8.4	9.8	9.5	9.9	8.7	10.1	10.8	11.4	11.9	13.9	13.6	9.8	9.1	9.1	8.1	9.8	11.1
Barrow-in-Furness	9.3	10.9	11.3	10.7	9.7	10.9	9.2	10.3	10.7	11.9	10.1	8.8	9.4	10.6	10.5	10.3	9.7
Blackburn with Darwen	6.9	8.3	9.3	6.0	8.7	9.7	9.2	9.5	10.4	12.0	12.1	10.7	9.2	9.5	9.0	9.6	9.9
Blackpool	6.6	7.3	7.9	7.1	6.0	8.0	8.6	9.4	11.0	12.4	12.0	10.9	10.4	9.6	9.1	8.4	7.6
Bolton	7.5	12.0	11.2	9.6	9.1	9.6	9.7	10.3	11.3	12.7	12.5	11.5	11.6	11.9	12.3	13.7	15.5
Burnley	5.8	7.6	9.7	7.1	8.1	8.1	8.6	10.3	10.9	12.2	11.8	11.1	9.5	9.0	9.0	9.1	9.5
Bury	6.8	7.7	9.8	8.1	8.4	9.4	9.1	9.9	10.6	12.1	12.9	11.4	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.8	12.7
Carlisle	8.2	10.0	8.5	6.9	7.8	7.9	7.4	9.6	10.6	11.3	11.9	10.3	8.9	9.4	9.3	9.6	9.8
Cheshire East	8.2	8.0	8.5	8.5	8.0	9.2	8.4	9.4	10.6	12.3	12.8	10.8	9.0	9.9	10.0	10.1	9.9
Cheshire West and Chester	8.0	9.7	9.3	8.0	7.8	8.2	8.1	9.7	11.1	12.6	12.6	10.6	9.0	9.7	9.0	9.8	10.0
Chorley	6.9	9.1	9.7	8.0	7.0	7.8	8.7	9.9	10.6	12.1	11.7	9.7	9.2	9.3	8.2	8.9	10.3
Copeland	8.6	15.0	11.4	10.3	9.7	10.3	11.0	11.9	12.4	13.1	12.9	11.6	10.9	10.1	8.5	9.6	10.2
Eden	8.0	9.0	5.7	6.0	4.8	6.5	5.6	7.9	9.2	10.5	10.9	9.1	6.8	8.9	10.4	9.0	9.5
Fylde	9.2	6.5	6.0	6.4	5.5	6.5	6.0	8.6	10.6	10.7	10.1	9.0	7.1	7.9	7.8	6.8	7.8
Halton	8.4	8.9	8.9	7.6	8.3	9.4	10.3	10.9	11.8	13.8	13.1	11.4	11.2	11.5	11.2	10.8	10.6
Hyndburn	7.1	6.9	6.8	8.2	7.8	8.5	8.1	8.9	10.5	11.9	11.0	10.1	10.3	9.9	8.1	8.8	9.1
Knowsley	10.0	10.6	10.8	10.5	10.0	11.5	11.2	11.4	12.0	13.5	13.9	11.7	10.8	10.7	10.3	10.4	10.6
Lancaster	8.0	7.6	9.7	8.7	7.9	9.2	8.3	9.1	10.1	11.8	11.5	10.1	9.6	10.0	8.8	9.7	10.1
Liverpool	13.0	13.6	14.5	13.3	11.7	12.6	12.4	12.7	13.2	15.5	15.7	14.3	12.9	12.6	12.2	12.2	12.6
Manchester	10.6	10.4	11.5	9.8	9.7	10.5	9.7	10.1	10.8	12.1	12.1	10.8	10.1	10.8	11.4	12.4	14.4
Oldham	7.7	9.8	10.0	8.9	8.3	8.7	8.7	10.3	11.1	12.4	12.1	11.0	10.7	10.9	11.8	13.0	14.0
Pendle	6.3	6.6	8.7	6.9	7.7	9.2	9.5	9.0	9.9	11.4	11.3	9.0	8.7	9.6	8.7	9.5	10.0
Preston	9.8	10.5	10.0	10.0	9.1	9.7	8.3	9.0	10.1	12.0	12.2	10.8	10.4	10.2	10.1	10.7	10.6
Ribble Valley	6.0	5.0	6.8	5.7	6.9	8.0	6.8	7.5	9.7	11.3	10.8	7.6	7.2	7.7	7.8	7.0	8.7
Rochdale	8.9	9.5	11.0	10.0	9.5	9.2	9.8	11.2	12.2	13.8	13.8	12.6	12.7	12.4	14.1	16.0	17.3
Rossendale	8.0	7.5	7.0	8.1	7.7	8.4	9.0	10.0	11.8	13.2	14.2	11.7	10.3	10.5	9.4	10.4	10.8
Salford	10.1	9.5	12.5	9.7	8.5	9.6	9.5	9.5	10.6	11.7	11.9	10.8	9.7	10.1	10.5	12.2	13.6
Sefton	10.6	11.1	11.0	10.8	10.8	11.3	10.8	11.5	12.3	14.3	14.1	12.7	12.1	11.9	12.0	12.1	12.9
South Lakeland	6.0	7.7	10.2	6.0	6.6	6.1	5.8	7.6	9.2	10.5	8.8	5.7	7.0	7.8	7.7	8.6	8.6
South Ribble	7.7	8.9	7.6	7.1	8.5	8.8	8.8	9.9	10.6	11.1	10.4	9.7	8.2	8.3	8.1	8.7	9.7

Table 1: Median length of claims of jobseeker's allowance of persons' aged 18 to 24 resident in local authorities in the North West

Months

	December					2009											
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
St. Helens	9.0	10.4	10.9	9.3	10.8	11.4	10.9	11.5	12.6	15.1	14.4	12.7	11.8	11.4	11.0	10.8	11.7
Stockport	8.1	8.6	9.7	9.2	8.5	8.4	7.5	9.7	11.1	12.8	12.9	10.9	11.1	11.8	12.5	14.0	15.4
Tameside	9.1	10.4	9.7	9.6	8.8	10.1	9.9	10.7	11.0	12.4	12.6	12.4	12.1	12.0	12.4	13.0	15.2
Trafford	9.2	9.5	10.0	7.9	8.0	9.2	9.1	9.1	9.7	10.3	9.4	7.8	7.8	8.8	9.4	10.7	11.9
Warrington	7.5	9.7	10.3	10.4	8.3	9.4	9.6	10.8	11.6	14.1	14.2	12.9	12.1	11.8	11.5	11.7	12.1
West Lancashire	9.3	9.2	9.3	8.8	8.1	9.7	10.2	10.5	11.7	13.3	14.0	11.6	10.9	10.9	10.5	10.3	11.3
Wigan	8.6	9.2	11.3	9.4	9.5	10.5	10.1	11.1	11.9	14.2	14.2	13.4	13.0	12.8	13.1	14.7	16.9
Wirral	8.7	10.0	11.0	9.1	9.3	9.9	10.0	11.1	11.6	13.3	13.6	11.7	11.0	10.6	10.5	10.5	10.9
Wyre	5.7	6.8	7.9	8.2	6.2	7.7	7.7	7.8	9.7	11.8	11.6	9.4	8.8	8.5	7.3	8.1	7.2

[1] Length of claim data is only available for computerised claims, which account for 99.7 per cent. of all claims.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Administrative System

Unemployment: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the level of unemployment has been in Salford in each year since 1997. [317394]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the level of unemployment has been in Salford in each year since 1997. (317394)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, estimates of unemployment for the Salford constituency are unavailable.

As an alternative, in Table 1 we have provided the number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for the Salford constituency for December 2009 and December of each year since 1997.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons resident in Salford parliamentary constituency claiming Jobseeker's Allowance

	Number
December 1997	2,397
December 1998	2,214
December 1999	1,874
December 2000	1,583
December 2001	1,568
December 2002	1,744
December 2003	1,697
December 2004	1,487
December 2005	1,636
December 2006	1,841
December 2007	1,674
December 2008	2,322
December 2009	3,177

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

TRANSPORT

Aviation

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many domestic flights within Great Britain, excluding lifeline flights, were of 360 miles or less in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010; and what projection he has made of the number of such flights in (i) 2011, (ii) 2012, (iii) 2013, (iv) 2014 and (v) 2015. [317031]

Paul Clark: The following table shows the Department's latest forecasts of the number of domestic flights from GB airports, with a distance of 360 miles or under, between 2009 and 2015. All these figures, including 2009 and 2010, are forecasts from the aviation model as data are not yet available for these years.

Lifeline flights cannot be excluded from our forecasts as only movements between the 29 largest GB airports are explicitly modelled, which does not include any lifeline flights. A list of modelled airports can be found in annex F of the UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts, published in January 2009. This is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/atf/co2forecasts09/

Flights from a modelled airport to a minor airport are included in an 'other airports in model' category. This would include some lifeline flights but they cannot be separated out from the other flights in this category. Flights between two minor airports are not included in our modelling.

	Flights under 360 miles
2009	248,258
2010	254,242
2011	253,511
2012	250,985
2013	255,465
2014	259,171
2015	259,925

Notes:
1. Data are for departures only.
2. These forecasts refer to the central demand scenario s12s2, with Stansted R2 in 2015 and Heathrow R3 around 2020, as presented in 'UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts', January 2009. This is available at:
http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/atf/co2forecasts09/
3. All figures are modelled, including 2009.
4. Distances are Great Circle Distances and no uplift for indirect routing has been applied.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many domestic flights within Northern Ireland, excluding lifeline flights, were of 360 miles or less in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010; and what estimate he has made of the number of such flights in (i) 2011, (ii) 2012, (iii) 2013, (iv) 2014 and (v) 2015. [317032]

Paul Clark: There are no flights within Northern Ireland. The three reporting airports (Belfast International, Belfast City and City of Derry) historically do not have flights between each other.

There are currently no lifeline flight routes from Northern Ireland airports.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average distance travelled by flights departing from UK airports *(a)* was in 2009 and *(b)* is projected to be in (i) 2010, (ii) 2011, (iii) 2012, (iv) 2013, (v) 2014 and (vi) 2015. [317033]

Paul Clark: Table 1 shows the forecasts of the average distance of flights departing from UK airports between 2009 and 2015. All these figures, including 2009 and 2010, are forecasts from the aviation model as data are not yet available for these years.

Table 1

	Average flight distance (km)
2009	1,556
2010	1,568
2011	1,581
2012	1,588
2013	1,588
2014	1,590
2015	1,592

Notes:
1. Data is for UK departures only.
2. These forecasts refer to the central demand scenario s12s2, with Stansted R2 in 2015 and Heathrow R3 around 2020, as presented in "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts", January 2009. This is available at: http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/atf/co2forecasts09/
3. All figures are modelled, including 2009.
4. Distances are Great Circle Distances uprated by 9 per cent. for indirect routing and stacking.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how many flights departed from UK airports in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figure in (i) 2011, (ii) 2012, (iii) 2013, (iv) 2014 and (v) 2015; [317034]

(2) how many flights, excluding lifeline flights departed from UK airports in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figure in (i) 2011, (ii) 2012, (iii) 2013, (iv) 2014 and (v) 2015. [317035]

Paul Clark: Table 1 shows the Department's latest forecasts of flights from UK airports between 2009 and 2015. All these figures, including 2009 and 2010, are forecasts from the aviation model as data are not yet available for these years.

Table 1

	Number of flights
2009	2,324,695
2010	2,416,328
2011	2,511,165
2012	2,576,932
2013	2,655,016
2014	2,721,096
2015	2,799,069

Notes:
1. Data are for UK departures only.
2. These forecasts refer to the central demand scenario s12s2, with Stansted R2 in 2015 and Heathrow R3 around 2020, as presented in "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts", January 2009. This is available at: http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/atf/co2forecasts09/
3. All figures are modelled, including 2009.

It is not possible to exclude lifeline flights from the forecasts of flights from UK airports contained in table 1.

Only movements between the 31 largest UK airports are explicitly modelled, which does not include any lifeline flights. A list of modelled airports can be found in annex F of the "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts", published in January 2009. This is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/atf/co2forecasts09/

Flights from a modelled airport to a minor airport are included in an 'other airports in model' category. This would include some lifeline flights but they cannot be separated out from the other flights in this category. Flights between two minor airports are not included in our modelling.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what proportion of flights taking off from UK airports *(a)* exclusively carried cargo and *(b)* carried cargo with passengers in each of the last three years. [317041]

Paul Clark: The following table shows the proportion of flights departing from reporting UK airports by type.

				Percentage
	Exclusively carried cargo	*Carried cargo with passengers*	*Exclusively carried passengers*	*All departing flights*
2006	3	61	36	100
2007	3	60	37	100
2008	3	60	37	100

Notes:
1. Flights by cargo and passenger aircraft. Excludes flights without any recorded cargo or passengers.
2. Carried cargo includes freight and/or mail.
3. Flight departures are based on data from 58 reporting UK airports, including flights from the Isle of Man and Channel Islands.
4. Excludes airlines which did not give permission for CAA to disclose their data.

Source:

Based on data supplied to DfT by the Civil Aviation Authority.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what average proportion of the weight of planes carrying cargo and passengers departing UK airports was made up of *(a)* cargo and *(b)* passengers in each of the last three years. [317042]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold this information.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average number of seats was on planes *(a)* making domestic flights within the UK and *(b)* taking off from UK airports in each of the last three years. [317043]

Paul Clark: The following table shows the average number of seats on planes making domestic flights and of all flights departing from reporting UK airports in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

	Average number of seats:	
	Domestic flight departures	*All flight departures (domestic and international)*
2006	91	139
2007	93	141
2008	93	142

Notes:

1. Flights by passenger aircraft only.
2. Flight departures are based on data from 58 reporting UK airports, including flights from the Isle of Man and Channel Islands.
3. Excludes airlines which did not give permission for CAA to disclose their data.

Source:

Based on data supplied to DfT by the Civil Aviation Authority.

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many tonnes of carbon dioxide were emitted as a result of UK domestic flights in 2008. [317122]

Paul Clark: In 2008, UK domestic aviation carbon dioxide emissions were 2.18MTCO$_2$.

The sources of these data are the AEA Energy and Environment and Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate_change/gg_emissions/uk_emissions/2008final/2008_final.aspx

Aviation: Isle of Man

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions he has had with air carriers on the consequences for them of the cessation of the bilateral health agreement between the UK and the Isle of Man with effect from 1 April 2010; what obligations there are on air carriers on routes between the UK and the Isle of Man to meet the costs of hospital care and admission consequent upon a passenger falling ill while being carried on such a route; and if he will make a statement. [317584]

Paul Clark: Responsibility for the bilateral health agreement with the Isle of Man rests with the Department of Health.

In relation to aviation, the Department for Transport has had no discussions with air carriers about the cessation of the bilateral health agreement. There are no obligations on airlines to cover costs of passengers who become ill (unless the airline was in some way negligent).

Aviation: Northern Ireland

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many flights of less than 360 miles between Great Britain and Northern Ireland there were in each of the last three years. [317044]

Paul Clark: The following table shows the number of domestic flights of less than 360 miles between reporting airports in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

	Number of flights
2006	70,093
2007	74,727
2008	74,379

Notes:

1. Flights by passenger aircraft only.
2. Based on domestic flight arrival and departure data from the three reporting airports in Northern Ireland. Includes flights to/from the Isle of Man and Channel Island airports.
3. Excludes airlines which did not give permission for CAA to disclose their data.

Source:

Based on data supplied to DfT by the Civil Aviation Authority.

Aviation: Security

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps are taken in circumstances where an air passenger in transit at a UK airport refuses to be subject to a full body scan on privacy grounds; and what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the UK Border Agency on the matter. [317171]

Paul Clark: Officials from the Department for Transport are discussing this matter with the UK Border Agency. Should a transit passenger refuse to be scanned and as a result is not allowed to travel, then UKBA would deal with any application for leave to enter the UK on its individual merits.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he has had discussions with *(a)* Smith Technologies and *(b)* QinetiQ on the availability and effectiveness of full body scanners. [317512]

Paul Clark: Officials from the Department for Transport have had discussions with a wide range of industry representatives including Smiths Detection and QinetiQ on the subject of advanced image technology, also known as body scanners.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he has made provision for training for airport security staff in relation to behavioural profiling. [317513]

Paul Clark: We are currently looking at whether targeting certain passengers for additional security measures at airports would be more effective than selecting a proportion of passengers at random. We have taken no decisions yet. Behavioural detection is not currently part of the training syllabus mandated for airport staff by the Department for Transport.

A number of security staff at Heathrow are undergoing training in behavioural analysis techniques—where passengers are selected if they are behaving suspiciously. This training is being trialled and will be independently evaluated. We will be considering the effectiveness of this trial before deciding whether it can be rolled out more widely.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he plans to publish guidance relating to the protection of the privacy of airline passengers who undergo full body scans. [317519]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has published an interim code of practice relating to the protection of privacy. It also covers health and safety, data protection and equality issues. The interim code of practice is available in the libraries of the House and on the Department's website.

The Department will shortly be launching a full public consultation on the interim code of practice and will consider all representations carefully before preparing a final code of practice later in the year.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects full body scanning equipment to be operational at UK domestic airports other than designated airports. [317520]

Paul Clark: Body scanning equipment will be operational at three airports by the end of February. The Department for Transport is currently working with industry to develop a timetable for widespread implementation.

British Transport Police: Fixed Penalties

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 423-4W, on British Transport Police: fixed penalties, how many penalty notices for disorder were issued in each year from 2006 to 2009; and what percentage of *(a)* £50 fines and *(b)* £80 fines have been paid. [317258]

Chris Mole: Following is a breakdown for penalty notices which were issued in each year from 2006 to 2009 by British Transport police (BTP), including percentages for £50 and £80 fines which have been paid.

	Total £50 penalty notice for disorder issued	*Percentage paid*	*Total £80 penalty notice for disorder issued*	*Percentage paid*
2006	895	52	2,231	48
2007	1,401	53	3,454	51
2008	1,378	55	3,143	52
2009	1,495	56	3,743	48

Of the above unpaid penalty notices the following percentages were converted into fines at court:

	Converted into fines (percentage)
2006	88
2007	86
2008	81
2009	82

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many concessionary bus passes were issued to residents of Houghton and Washington East constituency in each of the last two years. [317159]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport is not responsible for issuing passes and so does not maintain records of how many passes individual authorities have issued.

Concessionary travel in Houghton and Washington East is administered by Nexus, Tyne and Wear's Passenger Transport Executive. Nexus is best placed to provide information regarding passes issued to residents of Houghton and Washington East.

The last information held by the Department was that as of 12 January this year, Nexus had issued approximately 295,028 smartcard concessionary passes since the introduction of the England-wide concession in April 2008. This includes passes issued to disabled people as well as those aged 60 and over. The Department holds no data about passes issued prior to this date.

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 205W, on bus services: concessions, when he expects to place in the Library a copy of the written representations. [317604]

Mr. Khan: Where consent has been received from the relevant hon. Member or local authority, copies of the written representations that the Department has received between July 2008 and April 2009, regarding concessionary travel funding, were placed in the Library on 11 February 2010.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether any written instructions have been provided to his Department's Accounting Officer in accordance with paragraph 5.5 of the Ministerial Code since May 2002. [315565]

Chris Mole: Each Accounting Officer receives a copy of chapter 3 of Managing Public Money (the Accounting Officer Memorandum), which includes instructions on Ministerial Directions.

Departmental Communication

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of Lord Bates of 3 December 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA68, on Government Departments: Annual Reports, and with reference to the Government Response to the House of Lords Communications Committee's report into Government Communications, whether his Department publishes an annual report on departmental communications. [315603]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not publish an annual report on departmental communications. Communication activities and details of sponsorship support, and the objectives they contribute to, are reported in the Department's Annual Report and Accounts.

Departmental Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department has allocated to each *(a)* scheme and *(b)* area for local network management schemes for 2009-10. [316850]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency allocated £105 million of funding to local network management schemes in 2009-10. Approximately 1,500 projects make up this total and it is not practicable to detail these.

The Highways Agency operates the Strategic Road network on a National basis and prioritises its programme as such. The local network management scheme budget in the 2009-10 Business Plan was allocated by area as follows:

	£ million
East	13
East Midlands	9
North West	18
South East	27
South West	8
West Midlands	14
Yorkshire and North [illegible]	16

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much of his Department's £700 million fiscal stimulus funding had been spent on roads projects on the latest date for which figures are available; and how much of that funding he plans to spend on funding each roads project. [316851]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is to spend £400 million of the £700 million fiscal stimulus funding on projects on the strategic road network. The year-to-date and estimated full year forecast of fiscal stimulus expenditure, split by region, is as follows:

£ million

Region	*Year to date (December 2009)*	*Full year forecast*
North West	36	58
Yorkshire and North East	61	87
West Midlands	33	61
East Midlands	51	78
East	32	55
South West	24	30
South East	29	31
Total	268	400

There are in excess of 100 schemes being delivered as part of the fiscal stimulus programme and it is not practicable for all schemes to be detailed. In the following table are examples of these schemes with estimated full year forecast expenditure (these are included in the £400 million shown in the above).

Description	*Full year forecast (£ million)*
A46 Newark to Widmerpool dualling	70
M6 J5-15 hard shoulder strengthening	51
M62 J25-30 concrete barrier and lighting renewal	36
M1 J32-35a concrete barrier and lighting renewal	20
M1 J10-13 hard shoulder strengthening	16
M11 J9-8 pavement renewals	11
Avonmouth Bridge Northbound resurfacing	6
A27 Lighting and major maintenance	6
A3 Esher bypass major maintenance	5
M4 J15 replacement of central reserve barrier	5
M18 Jctn 6-7 concrete barrier renewal	4
A5 Milton Keynes renewals	4
M1 J28-30 lane 1 and hard shoulder renewals	4
M6 J33-34 resurfacing/safety barrier replacement	4
A38—A50 installation variable message signs	3
M42 J5 through junction running	3
M5 Poundisford resurfacing	3
A55 River Dee carriageway resurfacing	2

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how much funding has been allocated to each *(a)* scheme and *(b)* region under the second round of the regional funding allocation; [316853]

(2) how much of his Department's Regional Funding Advice 2 budget has been allocated to *(a)* Highways Agency schemes of regional significance valued at over £5 million and *(b)* each local transport major scheme in each region in each of the next three years. [316871]

Mr. Khan: The Government published guidance for the regions and additional transport supplementary guidance in July 2008. This provided information on regional funding allocations by year from 2008-09 to 2018-19 and by region. I am placing a copy of this guidance in the Libraries of the House.

In addition, I have also recently placed in the House Libraries advice received from each region, excluding London, in July 2009 which highlights suggested funding allocations to 2018-19 for each *(a)* Highways Agency scheme of regional significance and *(b)* local transport major scheme, costing over £5 million. These allocations are indicative only. The actual amount spent on each scheme in any given year will depend upon the terms of the final funding approval from the Department, the start date, and progress of construction. Copies of our response to the advice dated July 2009 have also been placed in the House Libraries.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the proportion of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies managed out in the last five years who remain working in the public sector. [313848]

Chris Mole: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department and its agencies spent on external recruitment consultants in the last year for which figures are available. [315483]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport and its Executive agencies spent the following amounts on recruitment consultants in financial year 2008-09:

	£
Department for Transport (central)	1,164,056
Highways Agency	430,953
Driving Standards Agency	279,591
Government Car and Despatch Agency	86,052
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	0
Vehicle Certification Agency	0

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) is unable to provide details of spend on external recruitment consultants without incurring disproportionate cost. However DVLA's expenditure on recruitment for financial year 2008-09, as published in the annual report and accounts, was £876,000.

The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency is unable to provide details of spend on external recruitment consultants without incurring disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many job vacancies in his Department and its agencies were filled through external recruitment in the last year for which figures are available. [315484]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport filled 1,390 job vacancies through external recruitment in the calendar year 2009.

Driving Instruction

Angus Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many driving instructors qualified in each of the last three years. [318035][1]

Paul Clark: The number of newly qualified approved driving instructors entering the Register of Approved Driving Instructors, in each of the last three years, is shown in the following table.

	Number qualified
2007	4,485
2008	4,749
2009	4,485

Angus Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average age of driving instructors is. [318036][2]

Paul Clark: The average age of the 48,885 Approved Driving Instructors currently registered is 47 years and six months.

Driving Tests: Orkney and Shetland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average waiting time was between applying for and taking a driving test in *(a)* Orkney and *(b)* Shetland (i) in each of the last five years and (ii) in the most recent period for which information is available. [317188]

Paul Clark: The following table shows the average number of weeks between a candidate applying for different sorts of practical driving test and the test date at the Orkney and Shetland test centres in each of the last five years and for the period from 1 April 2009 to 9 February 2010

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10 YTD*
Orkney						
Car	10.2	8.9	9.4	11.9	11.3	8.3
Motorcycle (old test)	7.7	8.0	8.5	8.6	8.3	—
Motorcycle (off road)	—	—	—	—	—	4.5
Motorcycle (on road)	—	—	—	—	—	6.2
Lorry or bus	7.1	6.8	6.9	6.4	8.6	7.6
Shetland						
Car	8.7	7.1	8.7	11.1	7.4	5.9
Motorcycle (old test)	7.2	6.6	4.3	5.9	6.2	—
Motorcycle (on road)	—	—	—	—	—	2.7
Lorry or bus	5.9	9.8	10.4	8.8	8.8	4.5

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1. *[Official Report, 23 March 2010, Vol. 508, c. 1MC.]*
2. *[Official Report, 23 March 2010, Vol. 508, c. 2MC.]*

East Coast Railway Line

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the reliability figures for the East Coast Line were in each of the last four months. [316883]

Chris Mole: The percentage of trains arriving on time or within ten minutes of schedule is recorded as the 'Public Performance Measure' (PPM). The information requested is outlined in the following table:

Railway period start	*PPM (actual) (percentage)*	*PPM (MAA) (percentage)*	*Previous year PPM MAA (percentage)*	*Change in MAA since 2008*
23 August 2009	87.9	88.6	85.2	Improvement
20 September 2009	91.5	88.6	85.5	Improvement
18 October 2009	87.9	89.0	85.4	Improvement
15 November 2009	85.2	88.9	85.5	Improvement
13 December 2009	67.4	87.5	85.7	Improvement

Due to the severe weather the monthly PPM figure for the period starting December 2009 is considerably lower than for the period starting in November 2009.

Because of seasonal variations in performance, a more useful indicator of long-term trends is the Moving Annual Average—which is simply the average over the last 12 months.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department was involved in discussions on new uniforms for staff on trains operated by the East Coast rail company. [316884]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport was not involved in this decision. Management decisions such as this are made by East Coast.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much is planned to be spent on new livery for trains operated by the East Coast rail company. [316885]

Chris Mole: This is an operational matter for East Coast.

The hon. Member should contact the chair of East Coast at the following address for a more detailed response to her question:

Elaine Holt
Chair
East Coast
East Side Offices
King's Cross Station
London N1C 4AP

Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Feltham and Heston constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [317105]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport (DFT) does not routinely hold transport statistics on a parliamentary constituency basis. The Department provides Transport for London with a block grant to fund transport delivery in London. This grant has more than doubled in the last nine years, rising to almost £3 billion in 2010-11. Drawing on these and other resources, the Mayor is responsible for publishing, and through TfL, implementing a Transport Strategy for London, while the boroughs are required to publish Local Implementation Plans which set out how they will contribute to the Mayor's strategy.

The additional funding that has been made available has helped deliver 1,089 million passenger journeys on the Tube in 2008-09, the highest ever. London Underground's scheduled service is now its largest ever, and in 2008-09 96.4 per cent. was run, the best annual result for 14 years.

Bus services in London have also improved. Some 2,247 million passenger journeys were made in 2008-09 and patronage grew by almost 47 per cent. between 1997-98 and 2007-08.

Concessionary travel continues to benefit elderly and disabled Londoners, and more than a million people currently hold a Freedom Pass.

On the South West Trains franchise, reliability has improved. In December 2009, 87 per cent. of trains arrived on time or within five minutes of the scheduled time, up from 75 per cent. in December 2004.

On the roads, national targets to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured by 40 per cent. and reduce the number of "slight" casualties by 10 per cent. (compared to the period 1994 to 1998) by 2010 were largely exceeded by TfL by 2004, leading to TfL setting themselves new targets of 50 per cent. and 25 per cent. respectively.

Various improvements in relation to cycling have also been realised across London. TfL report that cycling now accounts for 2 per cent. of trips in London compared to 1.2 per cent. in 2000, and between 2000-01 and 2007-08, TfL's automatic cycle counters reported an increase in cyclists of 91 per cent.

Gospel Oak-Barking Railway Line

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Mayor of London on the electrification of the Barking to Gospel Oak line; and if he will make a statement. [317848]

Chris Mole: None. I understand that Transport for London consider that further development work would be required for them to assess this project, but they are not currently funding this.

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment the Government Car and Despatch Agency has made of its environmental impact in each of the last five years. [316235]

Paul Clark: The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) holds ISO 14001 accreditation—an internationally recognised environmental management system standard. GCDA gained (and has since maintained every year) this accreditation in 1999. Consequently GCDA's environmental performance is audited regularly. GCDA was awarded the Carbon Trust Standard in 2009.

GCDA's environmental performance is also measured against the Agency's Sustainable Development Action Plan agreed with Ministers at the Department for Transport under the framework of Sustainable Operations in the Government Estate (SOGE).

For example, in relation to its cars and drivers GCDA has adopted a number of different strategies to minimise its environmental impact, including:

Vehicle allocation

Mileage reduction

Driver training

Policies and practices to address grey fleet (private vehicles used for business journeys)

Measures to improve health and safety and duty of care

Fleet carbon footprinting

GCDA's efforts to reduce its tailpipe emissions while growing the business have been particularly successful. The use of alternatively powered vehicles has meant that tailpipe emissions were cut from 232.03 g CO_2/km in 2005 to 133.01 g CO_2/km in August 2009—a reduction of 43 per cent., significantly beating the Government target three years early. We are close to meeting the Government's target of 130 g CO_2/km by 2012 also three years early.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much the Government Car and Despatch Agency spent on *(a)* media monitoring, *(b)* advertising and *(c)* public relations in each of the last five years. [316247]

Paul Clark: The Government Car and Despatch Agency does not undertake media monitoring.

The following table shows expenditure for the last five years on marketing. This incorporates elements of advertising and PR but it is not possible to disaggregate the component parts as they are purchased as marketing packages. To attempt to do so would incur a disproportionate cost.

Marketing/publicity advertising expenditure

	Spend (£)
2005-06	5,000
2006-07	450
2007-08	0
2008-09	2,750
2009-10	0

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many journeys between Government buildings were taken by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials using the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last three years. [316248]

Paul Clark: This information is not recorded at the level of detail requested. To obtain such information would incur a disproportionate cost.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which Departments used the services of the Government Car and Despatch Agency in 2008-09; and which Departments have used that service in 2009-10. [316254]

Paul Clark: All Departments used the services of the Government Car and Despatch Agency in 2008-09 and in 2009-10.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much the Government Car and Despatch Agency spent on vehicle insurance in each of the last five years. [316255]

Paul Clark: The Government Car and Despatch Agency spent the following on vehicle insurance in each of the last five years.

	£
2008-09	110,909.00
2007-08	153,853.00
2006-07	162,804.00
2005-06	168,110.00
2004-05	172,184.00

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many Government Car and Despatch Agency vehicles were involved in road traffic accidents in each of the last five years. [316256]

Paul Clark: The number of Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) vehicles involved in road traffic incidents in each of the last five years is as follows:

	Number
2005-06	155
2006-07	183
2007-08	143
2008-09	167
2009-to date	133

GCDA also operates an accident panel at which all incidents, no matter how minor, are investigated. Where agency drivers are found to be culpable, the panel's procedures permit referral for further training or other investigation or financial penalties.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many cars in the Government Car and Despatch Agency fleet are equipped with vehicle tracking equipment. [316257]

Paul Clark: None of the allocated cars in the Government Car and Despatch Agency fleet are equipped with vehicle tracking equipment. Green car drivers who operate the agency's environmental taxi-style service are issued with equipment which enables the dispatching team to identify the location of the driver to maximise efficiency.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the Government Car and Despatch Agency has conducted a user satisfaction survey in the last three years. [316258]

Paul Clark: The Government Car and Despatch Agency has conducted a customer satisfaction survey for 2006-07, 2007-08 and for 2008-09. The customer satisfaction survey for 2009-10 will be completed at year end. The results of these surveys are available in the agency's annual report, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much was spent by the Government Car and Despatch Agency on consultancy in each of the last five years; which companies were employed for such services in each such year; and how much was paid to each company for those services in each such year. [316259]

Paul Clark: The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) employed the services and spent the following with consultancy companies over the last five years:

	Expenditure (£)
2008-09	142,272.00
2007-08	100,272.00
2008-07	124,055.00
2005-06	89,356.00
2004-05	83,094.00

To identify the individual suppliers of consultancy services would incur a disproportionate cost.

GCDA uses consultants when specialist skills, knowledge or services are needed. Consultants on short-term contracts may represent better value for money than recruiting and retaining permanent staff for specialist, short-term roles.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* agency and *(b)* temporary workers were employed by the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last five years; and how much was spent in respect of such employees in each such year. [316260]

Paul Clark: The expenditure on agency and temporary workers employed by the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last five years is as follows:

	Cost (£)
2009	313,304.00
2008	174,666.00
2007	268,603.00
2006	217,942.00
2005	73,245.00

GCDA appoints temporary staff from (recruitment) agencies to meet the peak demands of the business' needs and to buy-in expertise on a short-term basis to meet operational needs.

Retrieving the number of staff within each category could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many complaints were received by the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last five years; and how many such complaints related to the use of relief drivers. [316261]

Paul Clark: The Government Car and Despatch Agency monitors formal complaints through its ISO 9001 procedures. In the past two years there have been seven recorded formal complaints, five of which refer specifically to the provision of relief drivers. Records are not retained beyond two years.

The Customer Satisfaction Survey conducted each year invites customers to identify areas for service improvement. The provision of relief drivers is one of those areas identified.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the income was of the Government Car and Despatch Agency from the *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector in each of the last five years; and how much of that income from each sector was received in respect of the Government Car Service in each such year. [316262]

Paul Clark: The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) is a full cost recovery organisation: all costs incurred as a result of our operation are fully recoverable through charges to our customers.

The income of GCDA in each of the last five years, including the value of that income received in respect of the Government Car Service was as follows (as per annual accounts):

				Income £000
	Total	*Public sector (Government car service)*	*Other (public sector)*	*Other (private sector)*
2008-09	21,260	14,906	6,073	281
2007-08	19,508	13,762	5,485	261
2006-07	18,861	12,673	6,183	5
2005-06	17,612	11,700	5,816	96
2004-05	16,743	11,301	5,329	113

Revenue is derived primarily from Government and the wider public sector within the UK working in accordance with the Agency's Framework Document.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many miles were travelled by Government Car Service vehicles in each of the last five years. [316263]

Paul Clark: The information requested is in the following table.

	Miles travelled by Government car service vehicles
2008-09	2,631,000
2007-08	2,397,000
2006-07	2,189,000
2005-06	2,834,000
2004-05	2,394,200

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average mileage was of a Government Car and Despatch Agency *(a)* car and *(b)* van on the latest date for which figures are available. [316264]

Paul Clark: The most up-to-date figure for the average mileage of a Government Car and Despatch Agency car is 30,652 and for a van is 79,826.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the total expenditure was of the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last five years; and how much of that expenditure related to the Government Car Service in each such year. [316265]

Paul Clark: The expenditure of the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) including that expenditure related to the Government Car Service in each of the last five years is as follows (as per annual accounts):

	Expenditure £000	
	Total	Government Car Service
2008-09	21,259	14,847
2007-08	20,106	14,014
2006-07	18,851	12,531
2005-06	17,602	11,578
2004-05	16,360	10,856

GCDA is a full cost recovery organisation: all costs incurred as a result of our operation are fully recoverable through charges to our customers.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many online payments were received by the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last three years. [316266]

Paul Clark: The Government Car and Despatch Agency implemented new payment procedures in October 2008. Some 801 payments were made in the financial year 2008-09 using the Government Procurement Card, and 1,517 some such payments have been made from April 2009 to end January 2010.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* cars and *(b)* other vehicles have been (i) owned and (ii) leased by the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each year since 1997. [316267]

Paul Clark: The information requested is in the following table:

	Cars (owned)	Other vehicles (owned)	Leased vehicles (cars)	Leased vehicles (other)
2002-03	193	57	0	4
2004	197	53	0	4
2005	197	55	0	4
2006	189	42	0	4
2007	212	48	0	5
2008	207	48	2	5
2009-10	215	41	26	7

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many cars the Government Car and Despatch Agency has *(a)* purchased and *(b)* sold in each of the last five years. [316268]

Paul Clark: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 205W. Added to which the following information for 2008-09 and 2009 to date:

	Purchased	Sold
2009-10 (to date)	10	29
2008-09	48	33

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many staff at the Government Car and Despatch Agency received bonuses in each of the last three years. [316269]

Paul Clark: An element of the Government Car and Despatch Agency's overall pay award is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award for members of staff who demonstrate exceptional performance, for example by exceeding targets set or meeting challenging objectives.

Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs. The percentage of the pay bill set aside for performance-related awards for the SCS is based on recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

The following table details how many people were eligible for and received a non-consolidated variable pay award, awarded under the Government Car and Despatch Agency's standard pay and performance management process for the last three performance years.

	GCDA headcount	Number of staff who received a non-consolidated performance payment	Number of staff who did not receive a non-consolidated performance payment
2008-09	315	298	17
2007-08	292	215	77
2006-07	307	239	68

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much was spent on staff costs by the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last five years. [316270]

Paul Clark: The Government Car and Despatch spent the following on staff costs in each of the last five years:

	Spend (£000)
2008-09	12,742
2007-08	11,905
2006-07	11,728
2005-06	10,766
2004-05	9,841

Staff costs include employer's contribution to national insurance and pensions.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what proportion of drivers for the Government Car and Despatch Agency reported for work on *(a)* 7 and *(b)* 8 January 2010. [316271]

Paul Clark: The 7 and 8 January were days of heavy snowfall in the south-east. From a total of 234; 197 drivers reported for work on 7 January 2010 and 205 drivers reported for work on 8 January 2010 for the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Relief drivers were used where regular drivers were unavailable.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment has been made of effects of the implementation of the European Working Time Directive on the Government Car and Despatch Agency; and what estimate has been made of the cost to that Agency of such implementation. [316272]

Paul Clark: Changes to the Government Car Service which came into effect on 12 October 2009, will reduce the cost to the taxpayer. Under the new system, drivers work a single daily shift. Ministers continue to have one dedicated driver (apart from those in the high security category), but any out-of-hours ministerial driving is met, on demand, by the Government Car and Despatch Agency's low carbon taxi service. This is a better deal for tax payers than the previous arrangements.

The cost of implementation is estimated as £500,000 for changes to the driver remuneration package.

£89,278.30 was the cost for consultancy assistance within the implementation project. All other costs have been absorbed by the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many staff were employed by the Government Car and Despatch Agency to work in the Government Car Service in each of the last five years; and what the total cost was of the salaries of those staff. [316273]

Paul Clark: The information requested is in the following table.

	Total salary cost (£000)	*Employees*
2008-09	8,576	182
2007-08	7,865	158
2006-07	7,329	178
2005-06	6,551	164
2004-05	5,732	163

Note:
As per published annual report and accounts.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether Ministers are entitled to express a preference for particular drivers to be assigned to them by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [316349]

Paul Clark: Cars and drivers are allocated to Departments depending on the level of the job required. Drivers are trained to the appropriate level for the role they are expected to undertake. Departments and Ministers provide feedback to the Government Car and Despatch Agency on the service provided and if they have any concerns the Agency will address those concerns, including, if appropriate changing the driver.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many mechanics the Government Car and Despatch Agency employed in each of the last three years. [316484]

Paul Clark: The Government Car and Despatch Agency employed the following number of mechanics in each of the last three years.

	Number of mechanics	*Number of apprentice mechanics*
2007-08	6	1
2008-09	5	1
2009 to date	4	1

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the country of manufacture of each of the *(a)* cars and *(b)* vans in the Government Car and Despatch Agency fleet was in each of the last five years. [316485]

Paul Clark: The country of manufacture of each of the *(a)* cars and *(b)* vans in the Government Car and Despatch Agency fleet, in each of the last five years is as follows:

2009

Country of manufacture	*Cars*	*Vans*
UK	36	22
Belgium	14	0
Germany	12	0
Japan	135	0
Poland	1	1
Portugal	3	0
South Korea	7	0
Spain	5	0
Turkey	0	26
Netherlands	0	3
Total	213	52

2008

Country of manufacture	*Cars*	*Vans*
UK	30	23
Belgium	16	0
France	4	0
Germany	15	1
Japan	111	0
Poland	1	1
Portugal	4	0
South Korea	7	0
Spain	5	0
Turkey	0	25
Netherlands	0	3
Total	193	53

2007

Country of Manufacture	*Cars*	*Vans*
UK	35	6
Belgium	36	12
France	7	1
Germany	13	1
Japan	88	0
Poland	0	0
Portugal	6	0
South Korea	7	0
Spain	5	0
Turkey	0	33
Sweden	2	0
Netherlands	0	0
Total	199	53

2006

Country of manufacture	*Cars*	*Vans*
UK	34	24
Belgium	69	0
France	8	2
Germany	38	1
Japan	35	0
Poland	0	0
Portugal	7	2
South Korea	0	0
Spain	5	0
Turkey	21	4
Sweden	0	0
Netherlands	0	0
Total	217	33

2005

Country of manufacture	*Cars*	*Vans*
UK	29	3
Belgium	95	31
France	8	2
Germany	52	1
Japan	7	0
Poland	0	0
Portugal	7	2
South Korea	0	0
Spain	0	0
Turkey	0	17
Sweden	0	0
Netherlands	0	0
Total	198	56

2004

Country of manufacture	*Cars*	*Vans*
UK	31	8
Belgium	86	42
France	5	0
Germany	68	2
Japan	3	0
Poland	0	0
Portugal	4	0
South Korea	0	0
Spain	0	0
Turkey	0	0
Sweden	0	0
Netherlands	0	0
Total	197	52

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much the Government Car and Despatch Agency spent on *(a)* London congestion charge (i) payments and (ii) fines and *(b)* fines for (i) speeding and (ii) parking in each year since 2008. [316500]

Paul Clark: The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) has paid the following fines and London congestion charges:

£

	Congestion charges	*Congestion charge fines*	*Total parking fines*
2008-09	124,640.00	0	2,530.00

The Agency has paid no speeding fines.

Parking restrictions within central London may make it impossible sometimes to deliver secure or sensitive documents to buildings or allow people with a high public profile to attend or leave buildings without putting themselves or secure documents at risk. In these cases GCDA will pay the fine and recharge these costs to the customer as appropriate.

Highways Agency: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much the Highways Agency spent on each of its ongoing major maintenance projects in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much it plans to spend on each such project in each of the next three years. [316848]

Chris Mole: The financial year of 2008-09 is the most recent period for which expenditure on major maintenance is available.

In that year the Highways Agency delivered some 2,000 projects within this programme which includes reconstruction, overlay, resurfacing of road pavement and maintenance of roadside assets. It also includes inspections, parapet and structural repair as well as technology and asset renewal.

Therefore, it is not practicable to release costs of each project. In 2008-09 spend on these projects totalled £589 million. In 2009-10 we estimated in our Business Plan planned spend of £800 million on major maintenance projects.

The 2010-11 plans are being finalised and spending in the following years is subject to the outcome of any future Spending Review.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much the Highways Agency spent on each of its ongoing routine maintenance projects in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much it plans to spend on each such project in each of the next three years. [316849]

Chris Mole: The financial year of 2008-09 is the most recent period for which expenditure on routine maintenance is available.

It is not practicable to release costs of individual routine maintenance works as this comprises many hundreds of projects and much of this activity is paid for through lump sum-based contracts.

Routine maintenance includes vital elements of the Highways Agency's maintenance regime to ensure it meets its statutory obligations. It includes activities such as gully emptying, accident damage repairs, cleaning signs, defect repairs, winter and technology maintenance.

In 2008-09 spend on routine maintenance totalled £325 million. In 2009-10 we estimated in our Business Plan planned spend of £300 million on routine maintenance.

The 2010-11 plans are being finalised and the following years are subject to the outcome of any future Spending Review.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding the Highways Agency has allocated for *(a)* routine and *(b)* major maintenance in each region in each of the next three years. [316854]

Chris Mole: Allocations for 2010-11 are currently being finalised and the future years are subject to the outcome of any future spending review.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2098-99W, what total control budget has been allocated for Highways Agency major schemes in *(a)* development and *(b)* options stages in 2009-10. [316899]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency Major Schemes in Development and Options Phases that had budgets set for the current financial year, 2009-10, are shown in the following lists. The total control budget for 2009-10 set for schemes in Development was £82.5 million and for schemes in Options was £29.7 million.

Schemes in Development

A1 Leeming to Barton
A11 Fiveways to Thetford
A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton
A14 Kettering
A21 Kippings Cross to Lamberhurst
A21 Tonbridge Bypass to Lamberhurst
A23 Handcross to Warninglid
A45 A46 Tollbar End Improvement
A46 Newark to Widmerpool Improvement
A556 Improvement (M6 J19-M56 J7)
A57/A628 Mottram to Tintwhistle Bypass
A5-M1 Link Dunstable Bypass
Birmingham Box Phase 3 M6 J5-8 Hard Shoulder Running
M1 J10-13 Hard Shoulder Running
M1 J10-13 Junctions
M1 J19 Improvement
M1 J32-35a Hard Shoulder Running
M20 Junction 10a
M25 J1b-J3 Controlled Motorway
M4 J19-20 and M5 J15-17
M60 J15-J12 Lane Gain
M60 J15-12 Lane Gain
M60 J8-12 Hard Shoulder Running
M62 J18-20 Hard Shoulder Running
M62 J25-30 Hard Shoulder Running
£82.5 million

Note:

A46 Newark to Widmerpool Imp moved into the Construction Phase in June 2009.

Schemes in Options

A14 Kettering Bypass
A1 Western Bypass
A1/A19/A1068 Seaton Burn
A160/A180 Imp Immingham
A19/A1058 Coast Road
A19/A189 Moor Farm
A19/A184 Testos Grade Separated Junction
A21 Baldslow Link
A38 Derby Junctions
A5036 Port of Liverpool Access
A63 Castle Street Improvement
Chichester and A27 Transport
M1 J10-13 Hard Shoulder Running
M1 J28-31
M1 J32-35a Hard Shoulder Running
M25 J23-27 Sect 5 Hard Shoulder Running
M25 J30/A13 Corridor
M25 J5-6/7 Sect 2 Hard Shoulder Running
M3 J2-4a Hard Shoulder Running
M4 J3-12 Hard Shoulder Running
M54 to M6 Toll Private Equity Partnership
M6 J10a-13
M6 J13-15 (including J15)
M6 J15-19 (including J19)
M6 J21a-26
M60 J12-18 Impt (Junction 28 to 12 Improvements)
M60 J8-12 Hard Shoulder Running
M62 J18-20 Hard Shoulder Running
£29.7 million

Throughout the course of the year some new schemes have been introduced into the Options Phase and others have moved between phases.

A number of schemes annotated as forming part of the Managed Motorway Feasibility Study within 2008-09 are now going forward as Hard Shoulder Running schemes.

Hotels

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many separate bookings at five star or above hotels were made through the Expotel contract by his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [315489]

Chris Mole: The following table lists the number of trips booked, hotel night stays and total cost for Department for Transport booked through Expotel in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 January 2010.

Department for Transport	*Number/£*
Number of trips	65
Number of nights stayed	105
Total cost (£)	10,990.45

London Bridge Station

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what consideration his Department has given to the merits of redeveloping London Bridge station so as to allow South London Line services to continue to operate from that station. [317019]

Chris Mole: It has always been recognised that it would not be possible to reconstruct London Bridge station within its current footprint without removing some of the terminating platforms, and thus reducing the number of trains that could use this part of the station.

If additional services from the South London Line were to be routed into the London Bridge station this would require a further expansion of the station which would be cost-prohibitive potentially require additional land and would require further planning consents.

Lorries

Ian Stewart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what information his Department *(a)* holds and *(b)* has access to on (i) the number of heavy trucks and lorry drivers (A) employed and (B) self-employed in each EU and EFTA member state, (ii) the average hours worked by each category of driver in each such state in the latest period for which figures are available and (iii) the average (1) hourly and (2) weekly earnings of heavy truck and lorry drivers in each such state in the latest period for which figures are available. [316167]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not collect or hold the requested information.

M4: Cameras

Mr. Swire: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many dedicated cameras there are for surveillance of the bus and taxi lane on the M4. [317193]

Chris Mole: There are no dedicated cameras for surveillance of the M4 bus and taxi lane. However, there are six CCTV cameras between junctions 3 and 2 of the M4, which can be used to monitor the carriageway.

Motorways: Accidents

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent research his Department and its agencies have undertaken on the number of traffic officers required to attend incidents on motorways. [309454]

Chris Mole: The number of officers and vehicles required to attend an incident varies greatly dependent on the nature, severity and location of the incident.

Neither the Department for Transport nor the Highways Agency has undertaken any recent research on the number of traffic officers required to attend incidents on the motorways.

A controlled trial is currently under way to fully explore the possibilities of variable crewing of patrol vehicles.

Motorways: Ragwort

Mr. Soames: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which Minister has responsibility for control of ragwort on the motorway system. [317320]

Chris Mole: As Minister for the Strategic Road Network, I have responsibility for the control of ragwort on motorways in England.

Motorways: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) M25 junction 30 improvements in Essex, (ii) M1 junctions 39 to 42 project and (iii) M4 junctions 3 to 12 project; and what the total projected cost of each is; [316894]

(2) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) M1 junctions 21 to 30 improvements project, (ii) M25 junctions 27 to 30 widening project, (iii) M25 junction 1b to 3 project, (iv) M1 junction 25 to 28 project and (v) A5117/A550 Deeside Park junction project; and what the total projected cost of each is; [316895]

(3) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) A2/A282 Dartford improvement project, (ii) A2 Bean to Cobham: Phase 2 project, (iii) A66 Carkin Moor to Scotch Corner Improvements project, (iv) A66 Greta Bridge to Stephen Bank improvement project and (v) A66 Long Newton junction project; and what the total projected cost of each is. [316896]

Chris Mole: The following table shows how much the Department *(a)* has spent (actual spend to date) and *(b)* plans to spend (forecast future spend) for each project. The table also gives the total projected cost and the current project phase within the project lifecycle (Options-Development-Constructions-Operations).

	Actual spend to date (£ million)	*Forecast future spend (£ million)*	*Total projected cost (£ million)*	*Phase*
M25 J30 Improvements in Essex	2.0	2.3	4.3	Options
M1 J39-42	0.0	1.9	1.9	Options
M4J3-12	1.0	0.4	1.4	Options
M1 J21-30 Improvements[1]	—	—	—	—
M25 J27-30 Widening	48.9	345.3	394.3	Construction
M25 J1b-3	59.2	0.0	59.2	Operational
M1 J25-28 Widening	267.0	52.9	319.9	Construction
A5117/A557 Deeside Park Junctions	60.5	0.0	60.5	Operational
A2/A282 Dartford Improvements	121.4	0.0	121.4	Operational
A2 Bean to Cobham Phase 2	131.1	0.0	131.1	Operational
A66 Carkin Moor to Scotch Corner Improvements	14.0	0.0	14.0	Operational
A66 Greta Bridge to Stephen Bank Improvement	12.8	0.0	12.9	Operational
A66 Long Newton Junctions	12.4	0.0	12.4	Operational

[1] The M1 J21-30 scheme was not included in the January 2009 Roads Announcement. It was a motorway widening scheme in the former Targeted Programme of Improvements, the first phase of which (widening between junctions 25-28) is under construction. Costs for this scheme are included in the table.

For projects in Options, budgets have only been approved to progress the projects to the end of the current phase. Approval will be sought from Ministers to move to the next phase, together with a new phase budget, at the appropriate time. Ministerial approval will be based on priorities, affordability, completion of statutory processes and the scheme continuing to demonstrate value for money. For these schemes the table gives spend to date and forecast spend to the end of the current phase.

Note that all forecasts are updated monthly as part of financial monitoring and control and therefore reflect the current position as at end December 2009.

Newspaper Licensing Agency

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what payments *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies made to the Newspaper Licensing Agency in each year since his Department was established. [315591]

Chris Mole: The information requested is set out in the following table:

£000

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
DFT(c)	4	4	12	12	12	13	15
HA	0	3	0	2	2	2	2
MCA	0	6	2	2	0	4	2
DVLA	4	3	4	3	2	2	2
DSA	1	2	10	10	12	15	16
VOSA	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
VCA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GCDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total DFT	9	18	28	30	29	37	38

Public Holidays

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the introduction of an additional public holiday; and if he will make a statement. [315114]

Chris Mole: No assessment has been made of the cost to the Department of an additional public holiday.

Public Transport: Rural Areas

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he is taking to encourage greater use of public transport in large rural areas. [316860]

Mr. Khan: The Government pay over £58 million annually in rural bus subsidy grant payments and have just published a "toolkit" for local authorities planning rural transport provision; this is alongside guidance encouraging greater partnership with community transport operators, who provide valuable services in rural areas.

The Government also support a large number of rural rail services funded via the franchising process and by direct grants to Network Rail. They also provide support to community rail partnerships through the Association of Community Rail Partnerships and small scale grants for projects on designated community rail routes.

Railways

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what guidance his Department has provided to train operating companies on the transport of surf boards on trains. [317515]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has not issued any guidance to train operating companies on the carriage of surf boards on trains.

The National Rail Conditions of Carriage sets out the conditions for luggage, articles, animals and cycles. Section II Appendix B includes a table relating to the carriage of specific articles in passenger accommodation, which includes "Canoes, Surfboards and Sailboards": none of these is permitted.

It is for the Association of Train Operating Companies, in consultation with its members and other interested bodies, to consider whether any changes should be proposed to be made to these. Any proposed changes to the National Rail Conditions of Carriage require the approval of the Secretary of State.

Railways: North East

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his most recent assessment is of the potential for high speed rail services to the North East. [317161]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is continuing its assessment of the detailed report from High Speed Two on a detailed route proposal for the first stage of a north-south high-speed line between London and the West Midlands, which was received at the end of last year. The report also contains advice on options for extending high-speed services, and high-speed lines, to destinations further north, including the North East. If the Government decide to pursue proposals for high speed rail, we will publish a White Paper setting out plans by the end of March 2010.

Road Traffic

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many miles vehicles, excluding heavy goods vehicles, travelled on *(a)* motorways and *(b)* dual carriageways in (i) England, (ii) Scotland and (iii) Wales in each of the last five years. [317046]

Paul Clark: The estimated miles travelled by vehicles (excluding heavy good vehicles) on motorways and dual carriageways in England, Scotland and Wales from 2004 to 2008 is shown in the following tables.

(a) Traffic on Motorways by country: All vehicles[1] excluding HGVs, 2004-08

Billion vehicle miles

		2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
(i)	England	47.3	47.6	48.8	49.3	49.1
(ii)	Scotland	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.6
(iii)	Wales	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.9
	Great Britain	52.5	52.8	54.2	54.8	54.7

[1] Includes motorcycles, cars, buses and LGVs.

Source:

DfT—National Road Traffic Survey

(b) Traffic on dual carriageways by country: All vehicles[1] excluding HGVs, 2004-08

Billion vehicle miles

		2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
(i)	England	45.7	45.5	46.2	45.9	45.8
(ii)	Scotland	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2
(iii)	Wales	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.4
	Great Britain	53.1	52.9	53.9	53.5	53.4

[1] Includes pedal cycles, motorcycles, cars, buses and LGVs.

Source:

DfT—National Road Traffic Survey

Roads: Accidents

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* serious road injuries and *(b)* fatalities resulted from accidents related to drink driving in each of the last four years. [317250]

Paul Clark: The information requested can be found in table 3a on page 30 in article 3 in the Reported Road Casualties Great Britain: 2008 Annual Report, copies of which have been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* fatal and *(b)* other road accidents took place in the Yorkshire and Humber region in each year since 2001. [317511]

Paul Clark: The number of *(a)* fatal and *(b)* other reported personal injury road accidents in the Yorkshire and Humber region in each year since 2001 is shown in the following table.

Reported personal injury road accidents in Yorkshire and the Humber Government Office region by severity: 2001-08

	Accident severity		
	Fatal	*Non-fatal*	*All personal injury accidents*
2001	299	20,029	20,328
2002	294	20,037	20,331
2003	296	19,591	19,887
2004	288	18,488	18,776
2005	276	16,947	17,223
2006	278	16,655	16,933
2007	254	16,190	16,444
2008	203	15,306	15,509

Roads: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Crewe and Nantwich of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 368-70W, which of the non-major projects listed is a *(a)* routine maintenance project, *(b)* major maintenance project, *(c)* local management scheme and *(d)* fiscal stimulus project. [316900]

Chris Mole: The table which was prepared in answer to the question from the hon. Member for Crewe and Nantwich of 11 November and which was placed in the Libraries of the House has been updated to indicate which non-major project schemes are routine maintenance projects, major maintenance projects, local network management schemes and fiscal stimulus projects.

A table containing this information has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which uncompleted schemes included in the Targeted Programme of Improvements are funded through regional funding allocations; and from what other sources such schemes have been funded. [316185]

Mr. Khan: There are currently three Highways Agency schemes under construction which are funded wholly or partly through the regional funding allocation. These are A3 Hindhead Improvement (expected to open in summer 2011), A421 Bedford to M1 J13 (expected to open in winter 2010) and A46 Newark to Widmerpool Improvement (expected to open in spring 2012). The A46 scheme is partly funded through the regional funding allocation and partly through the national roads programme and fiscal stimulus budgets.

There are currently over 30 local major schemes (costing over £5 million) under way that are being funded through the regional funding allocation process. The following table indicates these schemes and highlights where the scheme is also being funded through a contribution from other sources of funding.

Region	*Scheme name*	*Other sources of funding (contributions)*
Yorkshire and Humber	A628 Cudworth and West Green Bypass	Local authority
Yorkshire and Humber	Bridlington Integrated Transport Plan	Local authority
Yorkshire and Humber	Kirklees Strengthening and Maintenance Scheme	Third party funding
West Midlands	Hagley Road Bus Show Case	Local authority and third party funding
West Midlands	Selly Oak New Road	Local authority and third party funding
West Midlands	BIA/NEC Public Transport Scheme	Local authority and third party funding
West Midlands	Rugby Western Relief Road	Local authority and developer contributions
West Midlands	West Midlands Red Routes Package 1	RFA only
South West	Weymouth Relief Road	Local authority
South West	Greater Bristol Bus Network	Local authority and developer contributions
South West	Salisbury Integrated Transport Package (Petersfinger Park and Ride)	Local authority and developer contributions
South East	Sittingbourne Northern Relief Road	Local authority, developer contributions and Homes and Communities Agency
South East	East Kent Access Phase 2	Local authority
South East	M4 Junction 11 and Mereoak Junction Improvement Scheme	Local authority and developer contributions
North West	A34 Alderley Edge and Nether Alderley Bypass	Local authority
North West	Manchester Metrolink Phase 3A	Local authorities
North West	Hall Lane Strategic Gateway	Local authority, European funding and third party funding
North West	Blackpool and Fleetwood Tramway Upgrade	Local authority
Eastern	B1115 Stowmarket Relief Road	Developer contributions and other third party sources
Eastern	Cambridgeshire Guided Busway	Developer contributions, local and regional partnerships and local authority
East Midlands	Connecting Derby Phase 2	European Objective 2, the Single Regeneration Budget, the European Urban Programme, the Townscale Heritage Lottery Initiative and local authority
East Midlands	Markham Employment Growth Zone	Local authority, developer contribution, European funding, third party funding and English Partnerships
East Midlands/Eastern	A1073 Spalding to Eye Improvement Scheme	Local authority
West Midlands	Birmingham New Street Station (Gateway)	BERR, Network Rail, Advantage West Midlands, local authority, ITA/PTE, developer contributions and property income
West Midlands	A461/A4123 Junction Improvement, Burnt Tree	Local authority
West Midlands	West Midlands UTC	RFA only
West Midlands	Wolverhampton Centre Access and Interchange	Local authority, developer contributions and West Midlands regional infrastructure funding
North West	Carlisle Northern Development Route (CNDR)	Private finance
North West	Greater Manchester Urban Traffic Control	RFA only
North West	Greater Manchester Retaining Walls	Local authorities
North East	Metro Ticketing and Gating	Local authority

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much of the budget for the Regional Fund Allocation 2 programme has been allocated to each *(a)* Highways Agency scheme of regional significance valued at over £5 million and *(b)* Local Transport major scheme in each region. [316192]

Mr. Khan: Regional Funding Allocation advice was received from regions, excluding London, in February 2009 and the Department responded in July 2009. The advice highlights how each of the regions allocated funding to *(a)* Highways Agency schemes of regional significance and *(b)* local major schemes.

I have placed a copy of the advice received from each region and our response in the Libraries of the House.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what allocations were made to each *(a)* region and *(b)* major scheme from the first round of regional funding allocations in 2005-06. [316193]

Mr. Khan: Guidance for preparing regional funding advice was published in July 2005 and within this guidance there is a section that provides indicative allocations to each to 2015-16.

In January 2006, each region, excluding London, submitted advice to the Government on where funding should be allocated to major schemes. The Department for Transport responded to this advice in July 2006.

A copy of the published guidance, advice received from each region and the Department for Transport response has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Crewe and Nantwich of 11 November 2009: *Official Report*, columns 368-70W, on roads: finance, which of the *(a)* major and *(b)* non-major schemes listed are funded from (i) the Regional Funding Allocation 2 programme and (ii) other sources. [316520]

Chris Mole: The table which was prepared in answer to the question from the hon. Member for Crewe and Nantwich (Mr. Timpson) of 11 November and which was placed in the Libraries of the House has been updated to indicate those schemes funded from the Regional Funding Allocation 2 programme or from other sources.

Many of the major schemes indicated as being funded from Regional Funding Allocation 2 have been allocated funds to progress through the Options or Development phases but have not been allocated full funding for construction. Funding decisions will be made at various points as the schemes progress through the project lifecycle which will take account of affordability, regional priorities and value for money.

The updated table has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much he plans to spend under each budget heading from the budget for the National Roads Programme in each year between 2008 and 2014. [316857]

Chris Mole: The following table gives the forecast expenditure against each budget heading (options/development/construction) for schemes in the National Roads Programme. For completeness, expenditure is also given for schemes which completed in 2008-09 and 2009-10 and which were included in the January 2009 Roads Announcement.

Forecast expenditure (£ million)

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Options Phase Budget	10.1	20.0	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Development Phase Budget	23.4	46.1	21.7	57.9	1.7	5.2	3.0
Construction Phase Budget	178.0	454.8	615.0	618.0	251.8	0.0	0.0
Schemes completing in 2008-09	207.2	5.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how much his Department had spent on work on the *(a)* A3 Hindhead improvement scheme, *(b)* A1 Peterborough to Blyth grade separated junction project and *(c)* A421 Bedford to M1 junction 13 project on the latest date for which figures are available; how much it plans to spend on each such project in each of the next three years; and whether such projects are funded through the National Roads Programme; [316873]

(2) how much his Department had spent on the *(a)* A1 Leeming to Barton improvement, *(b)* M25 junction 16 to 23 widening project and *(c)* M25 junction 27 to 30 widening project on the latest date for which figures are available; how much it plans to spend on each such project in each of the next three years; and whether such projects are funded through the National Roads Programme; [316880]

(3) how much his Department had spent on the *(a)* M1 junction 39 to 42 project, *(b)* M3 junction 2 to 4a project, *(c)* M6 junction 10a to 13 project, *(d)* M60 junction 8 to 12 project and *(e)* M62 junction 18 to 20 project on the latest date for which figures are available; how much it plans to spend on each such project in each of the next three years; and whether such projects are funded through the National Roads Programme; [316881]

(4) how much his Department had spent on the *(a)* A1 Dishforth to Leeming improvement, *(b)* A1 Bramham to Wetherby project, *(c)* M40 junction 15 (Longbridge roundabout) project, *(d)* M1 junction 25 to 28 widening project and *(e)* M6 junction 8 to 10a north of Birmingham project on the latest date for which figures are available; how much it plans to spend on each such project in each of the next three years; and whether such projects are funded through the National Roads Programme. [316882]

Chris Mole: The following table shows how much the Department has spent (spend to end December 2009), and how much it is currently forecasting to spend in the remaining three months of the 2009-10 financial year and in the following three years.

The table also indicates which schemes are funded from the National Roads Programme and the current phase of each project within the project lifecycle (options/development/construction/operations).

For projects in options and development, budgets have only been approved to progress the projects to the end of the current phase. Approval will be sought from Ministers to move to the next phase, together with a new phase budget, at the appropriate time. Ministerial decisions will be based on priorities, affordability, completion of statutory processes and the scheme continuing to demonstrate value for money. For these schemes the table gives spend to date and forecast spend to the end of the current phase.

Please note that all forecasts are updated monthly as part of financial monitoring and control and therefore reflect the current position as at end December 2009.

			Forecast spend in each of the next three years (£ million)				
	Spend to 31 December 2009 (£ million)	*Forecast spend 1 January 2010 to 31 March 2010 (£ million)*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*Funded by the national programme (Yes/No)*	*Phase*
A3 Hindhead Improvement	274.8	19.6	50.8	17.4	0.0	No	Construction
A1 Peterborough to Blyth GSJ	92.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	No	Operations
A421 Bedford to M1 J13	109.0	20.4	68.9	0.0	0.0	No	Construction
A1 Leeming to Barton Improvement	21.9	0.3	1.9	2.2	1.7	Yes	Development
M25 J16-23 Widening	111.7	0.6	183.9	190.5	108.6	Yes	Construction
M25 J27-30 Widening	48.9	0.6	115.0	183.3	46.5	Yes	Construction
M1 J39-42	0.0	0.2	1.7	0.0	0.0	Yes	Options
M3 J2-4a	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	Yes	Options
M6 J10a-13	2.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	Yes	Options
M60 J8-12	1.5	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	Yes	Options
M62 J18-20	1.9	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	Yes	Options
A1 Dishforth to Leeming Improvement	118.2	21.0	91.2	79.7	0.0	Yes	Construction
A1 Bramham to Wetherby	72.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Yes	Operations
M40 J15 (Longbridge Roundabout)	61.9	4.4	3.9	0.0	0.0	Yes	Construction
M1 J25-28 Widening	267.0	17.6	35.2	0.0	0.0	Yes	Construction
M6 J8-10a North of Birmingham	84.0	26.6	32.0	0.0	0.0	No	Construction

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much of the £6 billion allocated for the National Roads Programme was used to complete work on the *(a)* M6 Carlisle to Guardsmill project, *(b)* M1 junctions 6a to 10 widening project, *(c)* A14 Haughley New St to Stowmarket project, *(d)* M62 junction 6 improvements and *(e)* M25 junctions 1b to 3 widening project. [316897]

Chris Mole: The following table gives the amount spent on completing work on the listed schemes out of the up to £6 billion allocated to the National Roads Programme in the January 2009 Roads Announcement.

Amount allocated from £6 billion National Roads Programme

	£ million
M6 Carlisle to Guardsmill	31.4
M1 J6a-10 Widening	82.5
A14 Haughley New Street to Stowmarket	14.0
M62 J6 Improvements	14.7
M25 J1b-3 widening	15.1
Total	157.7

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has provided guidance to local authorities on (1) which buildings or public services should be prioritised for maintenance of access to them by salting or gritting during adverse winter weather conditions; [316887]

(2) the priority to be given to gritting pavements during severe weather conditions. [316888]

Mr. Khan: Winter service, including decisions about the relative priority of salting carriageways and footways or the relative priority of ensuring access to services and buildings, is a matter for each local highway authority.

Advice on developing and operating a winter service strategy is included in the UK Roads Liaison Group's code of practice for highways maintenance management, "Well-maintained Highways".

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent on road *(a)* salt and *(b)* grit in each of the last 12 years. [316890]

Mr. Khan: The Highways Agency uses salt for the treatment of its network during winter and does not use grit.

The Highways Agency's routine and winter service is delivered by its contracted service providers. The delivery of these services, including the purchase of rock salt, is paid for within lump sum payments covering a range of defined activities. The individual amount specifically spent on the purchase of road-salt is not readily discernable from the service delivery lump sum payments and cannot therefore be provided.

Annual salt usage for the strategic road network varies greatly according to the weather faced, typically ranging 150,000 to 300,000 tonnes per annum, at an average cost from domestic salt suppliers of approximately £20 to £25 per tonne.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 178W, on roads: salt, how many tonnes of road salt *(a)* each local authority and *(b)* the Highways Agency held at the latest date for which information is available. [317115]

Mr. Khan: An updated table has been placed in the Libraries of the House, which shows how many tonnes of salt local authorities estimate they have available, according to the local authority salt audit returns the Department for Transport had received at 10.00 am on 8 February.

Taxis: Safety

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that local authorities prevent vehicles subject to a safety recall by Toyota from being used by licensed taxi companies; and if he will make a statement. [317173]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport has been advised that the recall has not been instigated on grounds of safety and so does not consider it appropriate to prevent these vehicles being used. The manufacturer has advised that at no time will drivers be without brakes and the vehicles remain safe in service.

The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency, the Department for Transport agency which deals with day-to-day vehicle safety recall issues, is in regular contact with Toyota and we are doing everything we can to help them recall vehicles in the shortest possible timescale. Ministers are monitoring the situation closely.

Transport: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what role the Government Offices for the Regions have in the determination of allocations of regional and local transport funding. [317860]

Mr. Khan: Officials in Government offices for the regions, alongside officials in central Departments, provide advice to Ministers on funding decisions.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he plans to respond to Question 316500, on the Government Car and Despatch Agency, tabled on 3 February 2010. [317534]

Paul Clark: I replied to the hon. Member today.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure that funding allocated by his Department in respect of Afghanistan is spent as intended; and what audit trail there is in respect of such funding. [313781]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Funding in Afghanistan is delegated to our ambassador, or in his/her absence, the Charge d'Affaires, who acts as the senior responsible officer and chair of the Afghanistan Delivery Group. The role of this decision-making body is to ensure that expenditure is authorised, controlled and monitored in accordance with agreed UK priorities and outcomes.

All UK civilian funding in Afghanistan is aligned to strategic objectives and subject to a robust planning regime. A programme office, based in Kabul, oversees governance processes that monitor expenditure and reports progress to the Afghanistan Delivery Group. Expenditure, both in Afghanistan and London, is also monitored by budget holders, subjected to independent external audit by the National Audit Office, and incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury Handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Antarctica

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many applications the Polar Regions Unit has *(a)* received and *(b)* granted for British expeditions to Antarctica in the last three years. [317079]

Chris Bryant: The Polar Regions Unit received and issued 82 permit applications during the last three years, comprising 26 applications during 2009, 27 applications during 2008 and 29 applications during 2007.

Belarus: Capital Punishment

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 300-1W, on Belarus: capital punishment, what information he has received on the plight of Vasily Yuzepchuk and Andrei Zhuk; and what representations he has made on their behalf to the government of Belarus. [316928]

Chris Bryant: Vasily Yuzepchuk and Andrei Zhuk have exhausted the legal appeals process. The sentence can now only be overturned by an appeal of clemency to President Lukashenko.

The UK is opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle. Together with EU partners, we promote the abolition of capital punishment around the world. We have continued to raise these cases with the Belarusian authorities, and to support a process of public dialogue on the death penalty. We worked closely with the Council of Europe who organised an information campaign in Belarus. Our ambassador explained our views in an interview with the Belarusian media in January 2010. We are pleased that the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus has set up a task force to study the issue, and continue to urge the Belarusian Government to declare a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

British Indian Ocean Territory: Environment Protection

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Mauritius on the creation of a marine protected area around the Chagos archipelago. [317118]

Chris Bryant: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials discussed environmental protection and the possible creation of a marine protected area with Mauritian officials in bilateral talks on the British Indian Ocean Territory on 14 January 2009 and on 21 July 2009. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also discussed the proposal with the Mauritian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister in November 2009.

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the remit is of the PEW Environment Group in providing services under his Department's contract for public consultation on the proposed marine protected area around the Chagos Archipelago; what the cost to his Department was of that contract; when he expects that group to report; to whom that group will report; and when he plans to publish the outcome of that consultation. [317121]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not have a contract with the PEW Environment Group. The Group, which is an independent non-profit organisation, is part of the Chagos Environment Network which has advocated the possible creation of a marine protected area in the British Indian Ocean Territory.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consideration his Department has given to pursuing the proposed Marine Protected Area project as a joint initiative with the government of Mauritius. [317696]

Chris Bryant: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials discussed environmental protection and the possible creation of a marine protected area with Mauritian officials in bilateral talks on the British Indian Ocean Territory on 14 January 2009 and on 21 July 2009. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also discussed the proposal with the Mauritian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister in November 2009.

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the political situation in Burma. [316579]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government remain deeply concerned about the lack of progress towards democracy and respect for human rights in Burma. Planned elections will have no international legitimacy while over 2,100 political prisoners remain in detention. Aung San Suu Kyi's appeal has reached its final stage. We call on the military government to release her, along with all other political prisoners, and begin a dialogue with the opposition and ethnic groups that would lay the foundations for a genuine and inclusive transition to democracy.

As elections approach, the democratic opposition and Burma's ethnic groups face a difficult dilemma. If they participate in the elections they risk legitimising a process they know to be flawed. Boycott the elections and they risk further marginalisation and exclusion from the political process. This is not a decision we can or should presume to make for them.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take in response to Burma's announcement that plans are underway to hold elections in a systematic way in 2010; and if he will make a statement. [316584]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK position on planned elections in Burma is well known. Unless Aung San Suu Kyi, and all other political prisoners are released, and the regime initiates an inclusive dialogue with the democratic opposition and ethnic groups, the elections will have no credibility or international legitimacy. As the elections approach, the UK will work to maintain tough EU sanctions targeted at the regime's economic interests, and press Burma's neighbours, including China, India and ASEAN countries to use their influence to secure real progress. We will also work in the UN's human rights bodies to highlight the ongoing and systematic human rights abuses in the country.

The planned elections should be an historic opportunity to reverse Burma's steady decline into poverty, stagnation and international isolation. It is difficult to be optimistic that the military regime will seize this opportunity, but the UK will continue to use all diplomatic channels to press them to do so.

Burma: War Crimes

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received requesting him to propose to the United Nations Security Council the establishment of a commission of inquiry into allegations of crimes against humanity and war crimes committed by the Burmese regime; and what steps he has taken in consequence. [317000]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since early December 2009, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received more than 70 letters from MPs and members of the public calling for the UK to support a UN Commission of Inquiry into crimes against humanity in Burma. We have also taken note of the Early Day Motion on this issue, and I have met campaign groups, NGOs and representatives of ethnic groups based on the Thai/Burma border, to hear their views.

In consequence of these representations and discussions, the Government have given further careful thought to the question of a UN Commission of Inquiry. We regularly test the level of consensus for action on Burma at the UN through our efforts to secure Security Council discussion. We secured tough resolutions in the UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council and will continue to raise abuse of human rights in the year ahead. Our assessment remains that an attempt to establish a Commission of Inquiry would not receive the requisite support from a significant number of countries and in particular veto holding members of the Security Council. We are concerned that if we tried and failed to secure agreement this would be interpreted by the Burmese regime as a diplomatic victory and approval of its conduct. The Government will nonetheless continue to do all they can to highlight the appalling and systematic abuse of human rights in Burma, and work to secure as robust an international response as possible.

Democratic Republic of Congo: War Crimes

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo on the arrest and transfer to the International Criminal Court of General Bosco Ntaganda. [317732]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We, along with our European counterparts, continue to press for Bosco Ntaganda to be handed over for trial by the International Criminal Court (ICC). The UK strongly supports the ICC and we welcome the Court's investigations into events in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Conflict in the region has been marked by atrocities, and those responsible for them should be held to account.

Our ambassador in Kinshasa discussed the arrest warrant with the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for the DRC, Alan Doss. He received assurances that the UN mission would support the DRC Government in carrying out the warrant. He has also raised the question of Bosco Ntaganda's position in meetings with the Foreign Minister. He has sought reassurances that Bosco Ntaganda will be handed over to the ICC at the earliest possible opportunity.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 54-58WS, on Foreign and Commonwealth Office finances, how the planned foreign exchange adjustment account will operate; and in what ways it will *(a)* resemble and *(b)* differ from the Overseas Price Mechanism. [317625]

Chris Bryant: The foreign exchange adjustment account will be a departmental unallocated provision (DUP) which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) will draw on as necessary to manage the impact of foreign exchange fluctuations. It is not a return to the Overseas Price Movements Mechanism under which the FCO budget was adjusted from the Treasury Reserve to reflect foreign exchange rate movements.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 54-58WS, on Foreign and Commonwealth Office finances, which assets he expects to sell in order to raise the sum intended in the statement; and what the *(a)* current book value and *(b)* estimated market value is of each such asset. [317627]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office publishes details of disposals quarterly in a letter to the Foreign Affairs Committee. For commercial reasons and in order to realise maximum value from disposals, we do not publish details of planned disposals in advance.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 54-58WS, on Foreign and Commonwealth Office finances, what the *(a)* original agreed budget for 2010-11 and *(b)* budget reduction agreed in consequence of the effect of changes in the value of sterling is for (i) the British Council, (ii) the BBC World Service, (iii) Foreign and Commonwealth Office Services and (iv) each other agency and non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible. [318025]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) grant in aid to the BBC World Service for 2010-11 is £267 million in resources and capital. The FCO grant in aid to the British Council for the same period is £194 million in resources and capital. The BBC World Service will make available £7.7 million to the FCO including an underspend of £4 million in 2009-10. The British Council will make available £5 million to the FCO. These contributions will not result in permanent reductions in their baseline, but are for 2010-11 only.

FCO Services Trading Fund will make a special dividend payment to the FCO of £3 million in financial year 2010-11.

No other non-departmental public bodies or agencies for which the FCO is responsible plan to make similar contributions to the FCO budget in 2010-11.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 54-58WS, on Foreign and Commonwealth Office finances, how much his Department expects to save in 2010-11 as a result of each of the measures set out in the statement. [318026]

Chris Bryant: The value of the contributions from the British Council and the BBC World Service to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) budget for 2010-11 are expected to be £7.7 million and £5 million respectively, while FCO Services Trading Fund will make a special dividend payment of £3 million to the FCO. Details of the FCO programme of streamlining have yet to be finalised.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department and its agencies spent on external recruitment consultants in the last year for which figures are available. [315502]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is committed to recruiting a talented and diverse work force, ensuring that the most qualified candidates from the widest range of backgrounds apply. The FCO sometimes uses external recruitment agencies to manage recruitment campaigns for new entrants, and where specialist knowledge of a specific job market is required; for instance Overseas Security Managers and procurement specialists. Outsourced recruitment is more cost-effective than running all recruitment campaigns through a larger in-house recruitment team and is a model used extensively across central Government. In 2008-09 FCO Recruitment spent £1,115,890 and FCO Services £839,790 on external recruitment agencies in order to help meet these aims. These figures include advertising and other costs involved in the recruitment campaigns and reflect an increase on 2007-08 spend due to a greater number of campaigns, many of them in specialist areas.

Diplomatic Service Appeal Board

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times the Diplomatic Service Appeal Board has met in each of the last three years. [317080]

Chris Bryant: The Diplomatic Service Appeal Board (DSAB) has met four times since 2007 to consider the appeals of members of the Diplomatic Service dismissed from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). In addition, DSAB members have met each year since 2007 for an Annual General Meeting with the FCO's Director General for Change and Delivery and a senior manager from Human Resources.

Falkland Islands: Expenditure

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much Government funding for non-military purposes has been allocated to the Falkland Islands since 1982. [317590]

Chris Bryant: Between 1982 and 1998 the Falkland Islands received £55.6 million in funding from the UK to help with the development of the islands. However, since 1998 the Falkland Islands have been self-sufficient in all areas except for defence.

Falkland Islands: Oil

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of *(a)* profits and *(b)* royalties from oil reserves from the South Atlantic he expects to be allocated to (i) the Falkland Islands, (ii) other Overseas Territories in the South Atlantic and (iii) the UK. [317593]

Chris Bryant: The natural resources of the Falkland Islands belong to the Falkland Islands However, the Falkland Islands Government have previously offered to share some of any future hydrocarbons related revenues with the UK Government.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with Ministerial colleagues the merits of sharing by all overseas territories in the South Atlantic the anticipated financial revenues generated from oil reserves in that region; and if he will make a statement. [317594]

Chris Bryant: The South Atlantic Overseas Territories have the right to freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources. Should there be commercially viable hydrocarbons finds in the region, any sharing of revenues would be a matter for the Government of the overseas territory concerned

Falkland Islands: Population

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will estimate the number of residents of the Falkland Islands, excluding military personnel, who are *(a)* permanent residents, *(b)* UK citizens from the Island of St. Helena, *(c)* other UK citizens and *(d)* not UK citizens. [317596]

Chris Bryant: Responsibility for non-military population statistics rests with the Government of the Falkland Islands who hold the requested information.

Government Hospitality: Wines

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the events where wine from the Government wine cellar was served between 25 December 2009 and 25 January 2010. [313986]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 28 January 2010]:* The following table shows the events at which wine from the Government Hospitality cellar was served between 25 December 2009 and 25 January 2010.

2010	*Event title*	*Host Department*
11 January	Lunch: Learning and Technology World Forum	DCSF
11 January	Dinner: Learning and Technology World Forum British Council Dinner	DCSF
12 January	Lunch: Turkish Foreign Minister	FCO
13 January	Lunch: UK-India Education Forum	DCSF
13 January	Reception: UK-India Education Forum	DCSF
14 January	Treasury Lunch	Her Majesty's Treasury
14 January	Dinner: Defence Equipment	MOD
14 January	Reception: Diversity in Public Appointments	Government Equalities Office
18 January	Dinner: Nobel Laureates	10 Downing Street
18 January	Dinner: Leeds University Alumni	Ministry of Justice
19 January	Reception: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) Defence Services	UKTI/MOD
20 January	Dinner: Deputy Defence Minister Korea	MOD
25 January	Lunch: Inter Parliamentary Union Group	FCO
25 January	Lunch: French Chief of Defence Staff	MOD
25 January	Dinner: Chevening Fellowship	FCO

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information in electronic format provided by his Department to the Iraq Inquiry that Inquiry has sought to publish under the procedure set out in the protocol on documents and other written and electronic information; and if he will make a statement. [314546]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office, on 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 894W.

Libya and Egypt: Land Mines

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will provide assistance to the Libyan and Egyptian Governments to help clear land mines between Tobruk and El Alamein left over from the Second World War. [317331]

Chris Bryant: The Government are fully committed to ending the suffering caused by anti-personnel landmines. We continue to encourage Libya and Egypt to sign the Ottawa convention, which would give them greater access to international and UK demining assistance and victim support. In May 2009, we provided the Egyptian Government with all Ministry of Defence-held information, including maps, relating to landmines in North West Egypt. We have also provided the Libyan Government with similar information. In 2007, the Department for International Development, which has lead responsibility for international demining assistance, contributed £250,000 to a UN Development Programme mine clearance project in Egypt.

Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission employs; and what the Commission's salary cost was in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [317020]

Chris Bryant: None and nil.

Mauritius: Foreign Relations

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of relations between the UK and Mauritius. [317119]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There is no regular formalised process for assessing the state of relations between the UK and allies such as Mauritius, although annual informal assessments are made as part of every UK mission's business planning process. UK relations with Mauritius are broad and wide, with regular contacts at all levels. Later this year, we will be marking the 200th anniversary of UK involvement in Mauritius. More immediately, the Privy Council will hold their second sitting in Mauritius this April.

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when Ministers and officials in his Department last met the Mauritian Government to discuss bilateral issues. [317120]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met the Mauritian Foreign Minister, Dr. Arvin Boolell, on 28 November 2009 during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Trinidad and Tobago. Officials met representatives of the Mauritian Government on 14 January 2009 and 21 July 2009 for bilateral talks on the British Indian Ocean Territory. And our high commissioner to Mauritius maintains regular contact with his host Government and meets Mauritian Government Ministers and officials on a weekly basis.

Somalia: Human Trafficking

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 165W, on Somalia: human trafficking, what *(a)* discussions and *(b)* correspondence he has had with the Somalian government on human trafficking in that country and within the region. [316929]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not held discussions or had correspondence with the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG) on human trafficking that occurs in Somalia or the wider region. We have held detailed discussions at ministerial and official level with the TFG on peace and security efforts and how we can best support progress and development in Somalia, in line with the UN-led Djibouti Peace Agreement. Establishing peace and stability for the Somali people will be fundamental to addressing the underlying causes of human trafficking in Somalia in the longer-term.

The UK is very concerned at the high levels of organised immigration crime in the region and will raise the issue with East African Community member states at a migration seminar later this month. Moreover, the UK has established various projects in the region to address migration issues, including organised immigration crime.

Ukraine: Famine

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bolton South East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 234W, on Ukraine: human rights, what the policy of the Government is on the recognition as genocide of events which led to the Holodomor famine in Ukraine in 1932-33; and if he will make a statement. [317564]

Chris Bryant: The Holodomor was an appalling, man-made human tragedy and the UK fully recognises its importance in Ukraine's history. The UK has co-operated with Ukraine to promote remembrance and increase public awareness of the Holodomor. We have supported statements at the UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe honouring the memory of those who perished in the Holodomor and encouraging the promotion of its remembrance. In 2008, His Royal Highness The Duke of York, Her Royal Highness Princess Eugenie of York, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my right hon. Friend the Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint), the then Minister for Europe all paid their respects to those who suffered so terribly in 1932-33 by laying wreaths at the Holodomor memorial in Kyiv.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister was represented at the events to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor held in Kyiv on 22 November 2008, and the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary sent written messages of condolence to mark this important occasion. The UK was also represented at the 75th anniversary memorial event in London.

With regard to the question of whether the events of 1932-33 should be recognised as genocide, the UK does not judge that the evidence is sufficiently unequivocal to categorise the Holodomor as genocide as defined by the 1948 UN Convention on Genocide. However, we do recognise that there is a division of opinion among academics on this matter and we will continue to follow the debate closely, particularly in the light of any further emerging evidence.

TREASURY

Banks: Africa

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what procedures his Department has in place to ensure that *(a)* illegal and *(b)* illegally-acquired funds from African countries are not deposited with UK banks; whether his Department has undertaken any recent investigations into such practices; and if he will make a statement. [318067]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Money Laundering Regulations 2007 require banks and other regulated businesses to identify 'Politically Exposed Persons' (PEPs) and assess whether and to what extent they present a heightened risk before undertaking business with them, including opening new accounts or policies. Such transactions are subject to enhanced forms of scrutiny, including measures to establish the source of wealth and funds involved.

PEPs include individuals entrusted by an overseas Government with prominent public functions, such as Heads of State or Heads of Government, senior officials, and their immediate family and close associates.

HM Treasury chairs the cross-Government 'PEPs Strategic Group' which co-ordinates action to address the threats posed by corrupt PEPs.

The police are responsible for investigating such practices and have specific units responsible for doing so.

Council Tax

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many new *(a)* homes and *(b)* affordable homes in each (i) local authority and (ii) region were placed in council tax band (A) A, (B) B, (C) C, (D) D, (E) E, (F) F, (G) G and (H) H in each of the last three years. [317632]

Ian Pearson: The information requested on the number of new homes has been placed in the Library. The Valuation Office Agency does not hold information to identify new affordable homes separately.

Council Tax: Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of dwellings have one or more *(a)* dwelling house and *(b)* significant code assigned to them on the Valuation Office Agency's property database for council tax valuations and revaluations. [317852]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst to the answer given on 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 142W.

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many notification changes with code CL26 have been made to the Valuation Office Agency's council tax list in 2009-10 to date. [317853]

Ian Pearson: The total number of notification changes from 1 April 2009 to 11 February 2010 with code CL26 was 29,572 representing 0.1 per cent. of the dwellings in valuation lists for England and Wales.

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 840W, on council tax: valuation, how many times the Valuation Office Agency has reduced the council tax band of a dwelling due to the presence of a nearby Traveller encampment in the last three months. [317574]

Ian Pearson: This information cannot be provided other than at disproportionate cost. Although all changes to council tax bands are entered on the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA's) computer system, this cannot be interrogated to establish the precise reasons why a change in council tax band has occurred. The reasons can only be established by examining each record in turn.

Crown Lands and Estates: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what interest the Crown Estate holds in the area of land to the seaward side of the Canvey Island sea defences; and if he will make a statement. [316905]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Crown Estate does not own any foreshore or seabed around the entirety of Canvey Island.

Departmental Consultants

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many consultants employed by his Department and its agencies have been paid *(a)* in total and *(b)* in reimbursable expenses in each of the last 10 years. [314012]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on spending on consultancy between 2001-02 and 2007-08 is shown in table A3 on page 111 of the 2007-08 annual report (CM 7408) and spending in 2008-09 on table 5c on page 107 of the 2008-09 annual report available from

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/dep_perf_reports_index.htm

Information on spending prior to 2001-02 could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information on reimbursable expenses could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The pre-Budget report announced that consultancy spend across Government would be further reduced by 50 per cent. by 2012.

Departmental Coordination

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the outcomes were of the proof of concept trials undertaken by HM Revenue and Customs, the Department for Work and Pensions and 12 local authorities as referred to in the report on service transformation by Sir David Varney. [313940]

Mr. Timms: The pilot exercise referred to formed part of the "In and Out of Work" project, designed to encourage those who frequently move in and out of work and who claim benefits and/or tax credits to take up employment. It was also designed to improve customers' experience of dealing with government by reducing the number of times they have to engage with Government services and the amount of information they have to provide.

The pilot exercise showed that collaborative work between HM Revenue and Customs, the Department for Work and Pensions and local authorities resulted in:

a 15 per cent. reduction in the average time taken to make payments of benefits to customers; and

evidence that the process prevented overpayments of tax credits by ensuring that payments were adjusted quickly when a customer left employment and that housing benefit payments were adjusted more quickly in response to changes in employment.

This improvement for housing benefit processing times was coupled with a significant reduction in the resource required to process these claims, as local authorities no longer have to contact customers for details of their circumstances.

Customer research following the exercise indicated that:

84 per cent. of customers who went through the process now understood the information that was needed to adjust their housing benefit and council tax benefit payments;

48 per cent. of customers with previous experience of claiming benefits stated that the pilot process improved the service that they received; and

77 per cent. of customers rated the way the organisations worked together as good.

The improved customer perception of the service also reduces customers' concerns around how their benefit claims will be handled. This in turn encourages them to take up work, particularly short-term work, confident that they will receive the right support from government when they most need it.

Following this successful pilot exercise, on 16 October 2008 the Government announced the phased national roll out of the service, which was completed in December 2009.

Departmental Energy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated *(a)* amount and *(b)* cost was of energy used in his Department and its agencies in each year since 1997; what proportion of the energy used was generated from renewable sources in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [317201]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark) on 1 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1200W.

HM Treasury is committed to improving its environmental performance in the use of resources and to reducing its energy use year on year.

Detailed information on the Treasury Group's sustainable performance by building for the years in question were published in HM Treasury's Departmental Report for 2007-08 (Cm 7408). Updates on progress will be provided annually.

Domicile

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many UK citizens had permanent residence in the UK but were either not resident in the UK for tax purposes or did not have UK domicile status in each year since 2000. [316919]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HMRC does not collect figures relating to the numbers of UK citizens, or other categories of British national, resident in the UK. This is because citizenship and nationality are of very limited relevance to an individual's liability to tax under domestic legislation, although they can play a part in resolving treaty residence in cases where an individual is resident both here and in one of the countries with which the UK has a double taxation convention.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue (1) accrued to the Exchequer from duties on sales of alcohol in Northern Ireland in each of the last 12 months; [316707]

(2) has accrued to the Exchequer from value added tax collected in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months; and what proportion of that revenue accrued from sales of alcohol. [316708]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Historical alcohol duty revenue figures for the UK can be found in Table 2 of any of HM Revenue and Customs Alcohol Bulletins, copies of which can be found at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulletins&hasFlashPlayer=true

Information on revenue from VAT and duty on alcohol in Northern Ireland is not available.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much revenue accrued to the Exchequer from alcohol excise duties on spirits in the last 12 months; and what estimates were made of such revenue for that period in the last three years; [316709]

(2) how much revenue has accrued to the Exchequer from tax on the sale of *(a)* domestically-produced and *(b)* imported spirits in each of the last 12 months. [316710]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Historical receipts of duty collected from spirits can be found in Table 2 of the HM Revenue and Customs Spirits Bulletin, a copy of which can be found at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullspirits

Estimates for domestically-produced or imported spirits are not available.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Tamworth of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1675W, on excise duties: alcoholic drinks, what percentage of the average price of a *(a)* pint of 4 per cent. beer, *(b)* a 70cl bottle of 37 per cent. spirits and *(c)* a 75cl bottle of 13 per cent. wine comprised tax in each of the last 10 years. [316719]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HMRC publishes data on the percentage of the average price of various alcohol products that is comprised of tax in the Alcohol Factsheet. This can be found in Tables 3.1 to 3.8 at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=factalcohol

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax has been recovered in the sale of seized contraband *(a)* beer, *(b)* wine and *(c)* spirits in each of the last five years. [316758]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HMRC's policy is not to sell seized alcohol due to the potential risks with Health and Safety and trade descriptions. Seized alcohol is disposed through a specialist contractor that uses environmentally sound methods.

Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Feltham and Heston constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to the Department's policies since 1997. [316674]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 Census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/

The Government have put in place a broad programme of reform since 1997. Over the decade to 2007, the economic performance of all parts of the UK has improved considerably.

The global recession has had a negative impact on economic activity in all areas of the UK. However, the economy was starting from a position of strength and is actively supported by policies implemented by the Government, including the fiscal stimulus and a significant package of support for those out of work.

In Feltham and Heston people are benefiting from this investment. Over the second half of 2009, more than 760 people moved off of the claimant count each month on average. The claimant count fell for two consecutive months in October and November. At the end of 2009, claimant count unemployment is still nearly 3 per cent. lower and long-term unemployment 97 per cent. lower than in May 1997.

Financial Institutions: Directors

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the appointment of a proportion of non-executive directors of financial institutions by organisations other than the financial institution in question. [317356]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Appointments to boards of companies are a matter for the company and their shareholders in line with the statutory framework in the Companies Act 2006. Shareholders are responsible for holding directors accountable for their performance and stewardship and deciding whether to appoint or reappoint directors.

Financial Services Authority

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to extend the scope of Financial Services Authority regulation to include second charge and buy-to-let mortgage lending. [318013]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government's consultation on extending the scope of FSA regulation to second charge and buy-to-let mortgage lending closed on 15 February. The Government will consider the responses from stakeholders and set out their plans in due course.

Financial Services: Standards

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many warning notices were issued to companies by the Financial Services Authority in each year since 2001. [318001]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The matter raised in this question is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority, whose day-to-day operations are independent from Government. I have asked the FSA to write to the hon. Member.

Fiscal Policy

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 564W, on fiscal policy, if he will place in the Library a copy of the latest review of fiscal consolidation measures undertaken in other advanced economies produced by his Department. [315495]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government will set out their analysis of the fiscal position and updated projections for the public finances in the Budget in the usual way.

Fraud: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff of his Department work on the recovery of duty lost through fraud on alcohol sales. [316796]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There are no figures available for the number of staff in HMRC or the UK Border Agency (UKBA) working on the recovery of duty lost through fraud on alcohol sales. This is because officers are deployed flexibly across a number of threats.

Government Securities

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what amount of gilts has been bought by *(a)* the Bank of England and *(b)* other banks operating in the UK who are regulated by the Financial Services Authority in the last 12 months. [316916]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Bank of England has purchased £198,275 million of gilts via the Asset Purchase Facility, and £815 million for its own balance sheet purposes in the last 12 months. Please note that the amounts are shown in proceeds (i.e. amount paid) terms and that In the Asset Purchase Facility the Bank purchases only conventional gilts with a residual maturity of greater than three years (prior to August, conventional gilts with a residual maturity of greater than five and less than 25 years).

Net investment in British Government securities by deposit-taking banks is available in the Bank of England's Monetary and Financial Statistics publication page T51, table B1.2, column TBMH, available at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/ms/2010/jan/bankstats_full.pdf

Hidden Economy

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of tax lost as a result of the hidden economy in each of the last five financial years. [317296]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: An estimate of the tax gap as a result of the hidden economy was published at 2009 pre-Budget report in "Measuring Tax Gaps 2009", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps.pdf

Hospital Beds: Wakefield

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many beds there were in NHS hospitals in Wakefield in each year since 1997. [316630]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

The following tables show the average daily number of beds for national health service providers around Wakefield for the years 1997-98 to 2008-09, the latest date at which data are available.

Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust

	Beds in wards open		
	Overnight	*Day only*	*Residential care beds*
1997-98	*	*	*
1998-99	*	*	*
1999-2000	*	*	*
2000-01	*	*	*
2001-02	*	*	*
2002-03	1,509	93	—
2003-04	1,899	96	—
2004-05	1,398	89	—
2005-06	1,457	90	—
2006-07	1,405	95	—
2007-08	1,359	96	—
2008-09	1,342	115	—

Pinderfields and Pontefract Hospitals NHS Trust

	Beds in wards open		
	Overnight	*Day only*	*Residential care beds*
1997-98	1,085	36	—
1998-99	1,064	58	—
1999-2000	1,050	58	—
2000-01	1,063	61	—
2001-02	1,063	61	—
2002-03	*	*	*
2003-04	*	*	*
2004-05	*	*	*
2005-06	*	*	*
2006-07	*	*	*
2007-08	*	*	*
2008-09	*	*	*

South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

	Beds in wards open		
	Overnight	*Day only*	*Residential care beds*
1997-98	*	*	*
1998-99	*	*	*
1999-2000	*	*	*
2000-01	*	*	*
2001-02	*	*	*
2002-03	727	—	—
2003-04	622	—	—
2004-05	534	—	—
2005-06	477	—	—
2006-07	464	—	—
2007-08	453	—	—
2008-09	457	—	—

Wakefield and Pontefract Community Health NHS Trust

	Beds in wards open		
	Overnight	*Day only*	*Residential care beds*
1997-98	460	—	42
1998-99	443	—	42
1999-2000	392	—	33
2000-01	360	—	33
2001-02	360	—	22
2002-03	*	*	*
2003-04	*	*	*
2004-05	*	*	*
2005-06	*	*	*
2006-07	*	*	*
2007-08	*	*	*
2008-09	*	*	*

Notes:
1. The Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust was formed in April 2002 following the merger of the Dewsbury Healthcare NHS Trust (acute services) and the Pinderfields and Pontefract Hospitals NHS Trust.
2. The South West Yorkshire Mental Health NHS Trust was formed in April 2002 following the merger of the Dewsbury Healthcare NHS Trust (mental health services), the Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust (mental health services) and the Wakefield and Pontefract Community Health NHS Trust.
Source:
Department of Health KH03

Income Tax

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the amount of revenue that would be lost in 2010-11 if the personal tax allowance was raised to £10,000. [315721]

Mr. Timms: The information requested can be approximated from HM Revenue and Customs' table 1.6 'Direct effects of illustrative tax changes', available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-6.pdf

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the additional amount of revenue that would be raised in 2010-11 if an income tax rate of 50 per cent. was charged on incomes over £100,000 per annum. [315722]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 4 February 2010]:* The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, due to the work needed to take account of the potentially significant behavioural responses.

The amount of additional revenue that would be raised if incomes at £100,000 or above were charged at 50 per cent., excluding behavioural responses, is estimated to be around £2.0 billion for 2010-11. This estimate is based on the 2006-07 Survey of Personal Incomes projected forward using pre-Budget 2009 assumptions. In practice, however, behavioural responses would reduce this yield significantly.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the additional amount of revenue that would be raised in 2010-11 if the national insurance contribution ceiling was removed. [315723]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 4 February 2010]:* The additional amount of revenue that would be raised from the removal of the upper earnings limit for employees paying Class 1 national insurance contributions and the upper profits limit for self employed individuals paying Class 4 contributions is estimated to be around £11 billion in 2010-11.

This figure excludes any estimate of behavioural effects which are likely to be significant given the scale of the change. The estimate is consistent with the 2009 pre-Budget report assumptions.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the additional amount of revenue that would be raised in 2010-11 if the income tax rate of 60 per cent. was charged on incomes over £250,000 per annum. [315724]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 4 February 2010]:* The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, due to the work needed to take account of the potentially significant behavioural responses.

The amount of additional revenue that would be raised if incomes at £250,000 or above were charged at 60 per cent., with a rate of 4.5 per cent. for dividend income, excluding behavioural responses, is estimated to be around £3.5 billion for 2010-11. This estimate is based on the 2006-07 Survey of Personal Incomes projected forward using pre-Budget 2009 assumptions. In practice, however, behavioural responses would reduce this yield significantly.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the percentage of income tax due which was collected in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the UK in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [317051]

Mr. Timms: Information on income tax liabilities in Scotland and the UK can be found in table 3.11 "Income and tax by gender, region and country" on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu.htm

The information is based on the Survey of Personal Incomes, of which 2006-07 is the latest available. Information for 2008-09 and 2009-10 will be published during 2011 and 2012 respectively.

Income Tax: Tax Allowances

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse of increasing the personal allowance by £2,000, limited to the basic rate of income tax, in respect of *(a)* all married couples and couples in civil partnerships, *(b)* all married couples and couples in civil partnerships with children under the age of (i) three and (ii) six and (c) all those aged 65 years and over in each fiscal year from 2010-11 to 2013-14. [313286]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 28 January 2010]:* Due to the complex nature of these questions the following estimates should be treated with caution. These estimates exclude any behavioural response to the change, which could be significant given the magnitude of the change. This has the additional implication of limiting reliable modelling of costs to 2010-11.

The estimated costs of increasing the personal allowance by £2,000 per person, limited to the basic rate of income tax, are:

(a) £5.9 billion for all married couples and civil partnerships;

(b) (i) £0.6 billion for all married couples and civil partnerships with children under the age of three;

(ii) £1.0 billion for all married couples and civil partnerships with children under the age of six.

These estimates have been calculated using HM Treasury's tax and benefit micro-simulation model using Family Resources Survey 2007-08 data.

The estimates of increasing the personal allowance for those aged 65 and over can be approximated from table 1.6 "Direct effects of illustrative tax changes" available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-6.pdf

Landfill Tax

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much is expected to be raised through landfill tax in 2010-11; [316624]

(2) whether he plans to review the criteria under which projects can apply for funding under the landfill tax credit scheme; [316625]

(3) how many applications from each constituency have been *(a)* received and *(b)* granted for funding under the landfill tax credit scheme in each year since 1996; and how much funding has been provided to successful applicants in each constituency in each of those years. [316626]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Estimates of landfill tax revenues are set out in chapter A, table A1, of the 2009 Budget publication "Building Britain's Future".

There are no plans for a specific review of the objects of the landfill communities fund (known as the landfill tax credit scheme up to 2006). However, the fund (including its qualifying objects) is kept under regular review as part of the Budget process.

Neither HM Revenue and Customs, nor the fund regulator, ENTRUST, hold information on applications or funding broken down by parliamentary constituency.

Loans

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the *(a)* number of self-certification loans made in each year since 2004 and *(b)* total stock of self-certification loans which is outstanding. [318012]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury does not hold data on mortgage product sales by type. However, the FSA's 'Mortgage Market Review' includes some information on the proportion of regulated mortgage sales in 2007 that did not involve income verification. This is available in Exhibit 2.7 of the publication, which is available at the following link:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pubs/discussion/dp09_03.pdf

Members: Correspondence

John Barrett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the MP's Parliamentary Business Unit of the Tax Credit Office expects to answer the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's faxed correspondence of 17 December 2009 on his constituent Mrs L A McKinnon. [316954]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs wrote to the hon. Member about his constituent on 16 February 2010 and sincerely apologise for the delay in doing so.

Money Laundering

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what reports he has received of allegations that North Korea is using Luxembourg as a channel for money laundering; and if he will request the Government of Luxembourg to investigate the allegations. [316823]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government are not able to comment on matters of intelligence. However the Government play a leading role in international efforts against money laundering, including the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the EU Committee for the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Finance.

It should also be noted that in 2009 the UK signed up to further sanctions against North Korea under UN Resolution 1874, placing restrictions on financial institutions providing services to North Korea and requiring enhanced vigilance by member states. While aimed at reducing the threat from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, such measures also serve to strengthen international anti-money laundering controls.

Mortgages

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of non-deposit taking mortgage lenders in each year since 2004. [318011]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Bank of England collects data on the volume of mortgage lending by different types of lenders, including specialist lenders. These are published in 'Monetary and Financial Statistics (Bankstats)'. Figures from the latest publication, which covers the period December 2007 to December 2009, are available at

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/ms/2010/jan/taba5.3.xls

The full set of figures is accessible through the Bank's statistical database, at

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/mfsd/iadb/BankStats.asp

National Insurance Contributions: Registration

Mr. Binley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many self-employed people were late in registering their national insurance contributions with HM Revenue and Customs in the last two years. [316859]

Mr. Timms: Individuals starting self-employment have a legal obligation to notify HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) of their liability to pay Class 2 National Insurance Contributions (NICs).

23,258 and 23,991 self-employed individuals were late in notifying HMRC of their liability to pay Class 2 NICs during 2008 and 2009 respectively. Late is defined as more than three months from the date self-employment commenced.

PAYE

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether an individual's PAYE case is automatically cleared when HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not receive back an employment history enquiry; and how many PAYE cases were cleared after HMRC received back an employment history enquiry from individuals in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [316119]

Mr. Timms: Pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) aims to collect the right amount of tax each year through the PAYE tax code, which is based on the latest information available to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

Where an individual's employment history appears incomplete HMRC will ask the customer for their employment history either during or at the end of the tax year. If the individual does not respond then the tax code will continue to be based on the most current information available and the case cleared at the end of the tax year.

Customers are encouraged to use the information provided on HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/income/tax-codes.htm

to help them understand their PAYE tax code. If customers have concerns or believe they are being wrongly taxed, they should contact their tax office, which will be able to make any appropriate adjustments irrespective of whether the case has been cleared.

Information on how to find your tax office is available at:

http://search2.hmrc.gov.uk/kbroker/hmrc/locator/locator.jsp?type=1

The information requested is not available, as HM Revenue and Customs' systems do not capture details of the number of PAYE cases cleared following receipt of a completed employment history inquiry form.

Pension Credit: Northern Ireland

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many pensioners resident in Northern Ireland have been contacted as part of his Department's pension credit Tax Back campaign. [316362]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available. I can confirm however, that for the United Kingdom as a whole, around 3.4 million letters were issued.

Public Sector: Contracts

Caroline Flint: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a Minister or official in his Department has responsibility for promoting Article 19 of the European Union Procurement Directive in respect of the awarding of public sector contracts to work places in which more than 50 per cent. of employees are disabled. [317586]

Ian Pearson: The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) has responsibility for public procurement law and policy in the UK.

Government are fully committed to ensuring that people with disabilities are given the opportunity to enter the labour market, as well as ensuring that there is a level playing field for all companies, including supported businesses, seeking to do business with the public sector.

Article 19 of the EU procurement directive has a role to play in facilitating public sector contracting opportunities for supported businesses. Last year, the OGC published practical guidance for public procurers on the provision contained within Article 19, including how to reserve contracts for supported factories and businesses while still ensuring that value for money is achieved.

Buying Solutions, OGC's executive agency and national procurement partner for UK public services, has made use of the Article 19 provision to set up a pan Government collaborative framework agreement with supported businesses.

Central Departments, including HM Treasury, each have supported businesses champions at official level. Their role will include raising awareness of the Article 19 provision within their Departments.

OGC is working with DWP and key stakeholders to raise awareness of the Article 19 provision and to encourage Departments to use it where appropriate.

Resource Accounting and Budgeting

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes have been made to his Department's guidance on resource account budgeting since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [316085]

Mr. Byrne: The introduction of Stage 2 of Resource Accounting and Budgeting in 2003 moved non-cash items from AME (Annual Managed Expenditure) to DEL (Departmental Expenditure Limits).

The 2006-07 Consolidated Budgeting Guidance formalised existing restrictions on switching between non-cash and near-cash items by introducing a near-cash control total.

In 2006-07, capital grants were also moved from resource DEL to capital DEL, eliminating the need to ring fence them within resource DEL.

The 2009-10 Consolidate Budgeting Guidance made a number of smaller changes to align the budgeting system with International Financial Reporting Standards which have been adopted for departmental resource accounting purposes.

Copies of past editions of the budgeting guidance are available in the Library, and the present edition is available on the Treasury website.

Revenue and Customs

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the costs, including redundancy payments, and the benefits, including increased tax yield and transaction savings, have been of HM Revenue and Customs' transformation programme in each year from 2006-07; and what the net change in the number of staff employed has been in each year. [313699]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 28 January 2010]:* HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) major transformation initiatives are delivered through the Departmental Transformation Programme (DTP), established in October 2006. The transformation programme has led to improved customer service, such as reduced administrative burden, faster responses to customer queries and an expansion in our online services to individuals and businesses.

The information requested is provided in the following table:

£ million

	Transformation costs[1]	*Additional tax yield*	*Transaction savings*[2]
2006-07	429.4	660.0	n/a
2007-08	421.7	714.8	14.2
2008-09	647.0	672.3	18.4
2009-10[3]	428.1	2,100.1	43.6
Total	1,926.2	4,147.2	76.2

[1] Transformation costs include the cost of voluntary staff releases made as part of the Workforce Change programme, when it was part of the Departmental Transformation Programme in 2008-09. [2] Transaction savings are defined as non-paybill savings in operational costs achieved through efficiencies, or improvements to our processes. [3] 2009-10 figures are forecast for the year, rather than actuals to date.

Transformation is expected to have long-term benefit, resulting in tax yield benefits continuing to accrue in future years.

The information requested is provided in the following table:

	Headcount	*Head count year-on-year change*	*Head count change to date*	*Full-time equivalent (FTE)*	*FTE year-on-year change*	*FTE change to date*
1 April 2006	97,332	n/a	n/a	89,702	n/a	n/a
1 April 2007	96,511	-821	-821	88,936	-766	-766
1 April 2008	90,961	-5,550	-6,371	83,828	-5,108	-5,874
1 April 2009	88,875	-2,086	-8,457	81,160	-2,668	-8,542
1 January 2010[1]	79,620	-9,255	-17,712	72,147	-9,013	-17,555

[1] Figures for 2009-10 include the transfer of 4,803 staff (4,628 FTE) from HMRC to the UK Border Agency.

Note

These figures relate to headcount and FTE numbers on the 1 April each year, except the current year where the figures are based on figures at 1 January 2010.

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the loss to the Exchequer arising from official error on the part of HM Revenue and Customs staff in each of the last five years. [317299]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, as the figures for all HMRC Official Error cases are not collated centrally.

Total revenue losses for HMRC are shown on p100 (table 8.2) of HMRC's Trust Statement, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

It is not possible to disaggregate figures of Official Error cases from the totals shown.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the HM Revenue and Customs employee headcount was for its *(a)* PSN and *(b)* information management services department in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009. [312146]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is provided in the following table:

	Employee headcount	
	HMRC directorate	
	IMS (Information Management Services)	*PSN (PAYE, SA and NIC)*
April 2009	1,428	372
April 2008	1,499	350
April 2007	1,743	388
April 2006	1,997	334

Sick Pay

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of statutory sick pay not paid by companies in each of the last five years. [316756]

Mr. Timms: No such estimate has been made.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which 50 companies owe the most in statutory sick pay contributions; and how much each such company owes in such contributions. [316757]

Mr. Timms: Employers are responsible for establishing entitlement and making payment of any Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) due to their employees.

The information requested is not available, as there is no obligation on employers or employees to report to HM Revenue and Customs cases where an employer owes SSP to an employee.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the tax gap in stamp duty land tax in each of the last five years. [317241]

Mr. Timms: In March 2008 HMRC published details of analysis from 2005 that attempted to derive broad-brush estimates of the direct tax gap at the start of the decade. This publication contained a net tax gap estimate for stamp duty land tax of £0.5 billion, within a range of £0.2 billion to £1 billion and can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/direct-tax-gaps.pdf

and

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/measuring-tax-gap.pdf

The most up-to-date information is found in "Measuring Tax Gaps 2009", published at PBR 2009, which contains an illustrative indicator of the tax gap for all stamp duties, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps.pdf

Tax Allowances: North West

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people aged 75 years and over resident in each local authority area in the North West with an annual income below *(a)* £10,000, *(b)* the age-related personal allowance of £9,640 and *(c)* the basic level of personal allowance of £6,475 in 2009-10; [317208]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people aged between 65 and 74 years old resident in each local authority area in the North West with an annual income below *(a)* £10,000, *(b)* the age-related personal allowance of £9,640 and *(c)* the basic level of personal allowance of £6,490 in 2009-10. [317209]

Mr. Timms: The requested information is not readily available due to small sample sizes at local authority area level and non representative data for individuals with income below the personal allowance.

However, information on taxpayers' income and income tax by unitary authority can be found in table 3.14 'Income and tax by borough and district or unitary authority' on HM Revenue and Customs' website, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#314

Estimates are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes, of which 2006-07 is currently the latest available.

Any inference from the information in tables 3.14 should take into account the confidence intervals in table 3.14a 'income and tax by borough and district or unitary authority, Confidence Intervals'.

Taxation

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what forms of individual income are subject to withholding tax but are not part of the Pay As You Earn system; and how the amount to be withheld is calculated on those forms of income. [316948]

Mr. Timms: The Pay As You Earn (PAYE) system applies to income from employment and pensions. Other individual income, outside PAYE, and subject to withholding tax is as follows.

Investment income from banks and building societies has basic rate tax deducted at source by the payer. Individuals who are not liable to tax can arrange to receive their income paid gross or claim a repayment, and those who should only be paying at the 10 per cent. savings rate can claim a repayment.

Interest distributions paid by authorised investment funds and investment trust companies are also subject to deduction of basic rate tax at source. Individuals with no liability or reduced liability can claim a repayment.

Other interest, annual payments and patent royalties payable to individuals are subject to deduction of basic rate tax at source. This is treated as if it were tax paid by the recipient, who then only has a tax liability on the gross amount of the payment if they are higher rate taxpayers.

Dividends are not subject to deduction of basic rate tax at source. However, individuals who receive dividends from UK and most non-UK companies are entitled to a non-payable tax credit designed to compensate for tax paid on corporate profits at the company level, and this is used to satisfy the tax liability of the recipient if they are liable to basic rate tax only. The recipient will then only have an additional liability if liable to higher rate tax on the amount of the dividend plus tax credit. Dividend distributions paid by authorised investment funds are treated in the same way.

Gains from certain life insurance policies are treated as income. Although there is no direct system of tax withholding, insurers are charged corporation tax on returns ultimately attributable to their policyholders. To reflect this, individuals with policies from UK life insurers will be treated as though they have paid basic rate tax on gains they realise from these policies.

Payments under purchase life annuities are subject to deduction of basic rate tax at source on the part of each payment that represents income rather than a return of the original capital used to acquire the annuity. Basic rate tax is deducted from this income by the insurer making the annuity payments and is treated as tax paid by the annuitant.

Income from construction contracts of any individual subcontractor registered for payment under deduction in the Construction Industry Scheme will be subject to a deduction of 20 per cent. on the amount which does not represent the direct cost of materials.

The non resident Landlords Scheme requires UK letting agents to deduct basic rate tax from any rent they collect for non resident landlords from UK property. If non resident landlords do not have UK letting agents acting for them, and the rent is more than £100 a week, their tenants must deduct the tax. When working out the amount to tax the letting agent/tenant can take off deductible expenses.

Property income distributions paid by UK REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts) or by Property Authorised Investment Funds (PAIFs) are also subject to deduction of tax at the basic rate.

The taxation of income from trusts, other than bare trusts, depends upon whether the income is discretionary or an immediate entitlement. Discretionary payments from trusts which are not settlor-interested carry a credit at the trust rate. Where there is an income entitlement the trustees account for tax on that income and the beneficiaries receive credit for any tax payable by the trustees, along with any tax deducted at source and tax credits. The rate depends upon the nature of the income, 10 per cent. on dividend type income and basic rate on other income.

The treatment of income from estates is similar.

Where settlors are taxable on income arising to a trust, the trustees account for tax on that income as recipients. The settlor receives credit for any tax payable by the trustees along with tax deducted at source and any tax credits, for example attaching to dividends. The rate of tax chargeable on the trustees depends firstly on the nature of the trust and then on the nature of the income.

Taxation: Companies

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) charged in fines to *(a)* partnerships and *(b)* companies who (i) were fined for not filing their tax returns with HMRC by 31 January 2009 and (ii) were registered as a partnership for the purpose of receiving their unique taxpayer reference from 1 October 2008; [317355]

(2) how much HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) charged in fines to *(a)* partnerships and *(b)* companies who were fined for not filing their tax returns with HMRC by 31 January 2010 and were registered as a partnership for the purpose of receiving their unique taxpayer reference from 1 October 2009. [317368]

Mr. Timms: Any partnership registering after 1 October 2008 and 1 October 2009 would not be required to submit a partnership tax return until 31 January 2010 or 31 January 2011 respectively. Penalties for late 2008-09 returns will start to be issued towards the end of February 2010.

Taxation: Fraud

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer arising from organised fraud in relation to *(a)* income tax, *(b)* value added tax, *(c)* corporation tax, *(d)* national insurance, *(e)* tax credits and *(f)* child benefit in each of the last five years. [317297]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In "Protecting Tax Revenues 2009", published at 2009 pre-Budget report, HMRC estimated that criminal attacks accounted for 12.5 per cent. of the total net tax gap of £40 billion in 2007-08:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2009/protect-tax-revenue-5450.pdf

Reliable estimates for losses arising from organised fraud in income tax, corporation tax national insurance and child benefit are not available.

Estimates for value added tax losses arising from organised fraud (Missing Trader Intra-Community fraud) for the years 2005-06 to 2008-09 are available in "Measuring Tax Gaps 2009":

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps.pdf

HM Revenue and Customs 2008-09 Accounts reported that for tax credits £31.9 million was written off due to organised fraud in 2008-09:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accs-0809.pdf

Taxation: Married People

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of children living in poverty who would benefit from measures to benefit married couples through the tax system. [317963]

Mr. Timms: The number and proportion of children living in poverty who would benefit depends on the specific measure considered to benefit married couples through the tax system; and whether all married couples would benefit or just those with children below a certain age. When considering reforms of this type, it is important to take into account that children in lone-parent families face a higher chance of living in relative poverty than children in couple families. The Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2007/08 publication shows that 36 per cent. of children living in lone-parent families fall below the 60 per cent. median income threshold (before housing costs), against 18 per cent. of children in couple families.

Taxation: Medical Equipment

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 856-57W, on taxation: health professions, if he will consider the merits of bringing forward proposals to reduce to zero the rate of value added tax on medical appliances supplied by appliance contractors. [317137]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 14 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1137W.

Taxation: Self Assessment

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the tax gap for individuals in income tax self assessment in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [317298]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The latest estimate of the tax gap for individuals in self assessment was published at the 2009 pre-Budget report in "Measuring Tax Gaps 2009", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps.htm

Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Valuation Office Agency has spent on the Automated Valuation Model (AVM) for domestic dwellings to date; what the purpose of the AVM for domestic dwellings is; and which databases use *(a)* AVM technology and *(b)* data analysed by the AVM system. [317808]

Ian Pearson: From 2003 to 31 January 2010, total expenditure by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) on Automated Valuation Model (AVM) technology, to support a range of its activities associated with domestic property valuation, has amounted to approximately £14 million.

The VOA originally developed AVM technology to support work on the 2007 Council Tax Revaluation in England, which was postponed in 2005, however the technology has since been used to develop a council tax banding support tool to assist with maintenance of current council tax valuation lists.

AVM technology makes use of data drawn from the VOA's digitised database of property records. The database itself does not use AVM technology.

No analysed data are passed from the AVM systems to the VOA's digitised database of property records.

Valuation Office: Databases

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date the Valuation Office Agency's Geographical Information System is expected to go live in each of the agency's area offices. [317867]

Ian Pearson: The roll-out of the Geographical Information System application to each of the agency's offices is planned to take place over a five-week period commencing in July 2010.

VAT: Charities

Janet Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will lift the requirement for registered charities to pay value added tax on digital audio equipment. [317176]

Mr. Timms: A zero rate of VAT applies to equipment purchased by charities which they make available to disabled people for their domestic or personal use, provided the equipment is designed solely for use by a disabled person. This covers digital audio equipment which is so designed, but does not cover any equipment which disabled people may find useful, but which is also suitable for more general use.

The application of VAT throughout the EU is governed by agreements between the UK and its EU partners. Under these agreements, we are allowed to keep our existing zero rates, but may not extend their scope or introduce new ones.

Welfare Tax Credits

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of couples with children receiving *(a)* child tax credit only and *(b)* both working tax credit and child tax credit have both adults in work and do not receive the 30 hour element of working tax credit. [315979]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available. Households eligible for child tax credit, but not working tax credit, are not eligible for the 30-hour element of working tax credit.

Working tax credit is designed to remove barriers to work and to top up the earnings of working people on low to moderate incomes. People with a child or a disability can claim it from age 16, provided they work at least 16 hours a week. The hours worked by couples with children can be combined; therefore if both adults in a couple work at least 16 hours a week they will be eligible for the 30 hour element of working tax credit.

In most cases if an individual in the couple works less than 16 hours, HM Revenue and Customs will not hold the necessary information to determine whether the individual is working at all. As such, the Department cannot produce the analysis requested.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on each element of *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit in each (i) county and (ii) region in each of the last four years. [317923]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the average number of recipient families and their entitlements to tax credits, by county, local authority and parliamentary constituency, for 2004-05 to 2007-08, are available in the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised Annual Awards. Geographical Analyses", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

The same information for 2008-09 is not yet available as awards have not yet been finalised. However, estimates of the number of recipient families with tax credits, based on provisional awards, as at 1 December 2009, are available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical analyses. December 2009", available at the same internet address.

HMRC do not produce these statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

Welfare Tax Credits: Newport

Jessica Morden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in Newport East constituency are in receipt of tax credits. [317347]

Mr. Timms: The latest information on the number of households benefiting from tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency, is available in HM Revenue and Customs snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. December 2009", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-dec09.pdf

Welfare Tax Credits: Rotherham

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid in working tax credits to eligible households in Rotherham in the latest year for which figures are available. [317510]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the average number of recipient families and their entitlements to tax credits, by local authority and parliamentary constituency, for 2007-08, are available in the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) publications 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised Annual Awards. Geographical Analyses', available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

The same information for 2008-09 is not yet available as awards have not yet been finalised. However, estimates of the number of recipient families with tax credits, based on provisional awards, as at 1 December 2009, are available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical analyses. December 2009", available at the same internet address.

HMRC do not produce these statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan and Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which non-governmental organisations are receiving funding from his Department to conduct aid work in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Pakistan; and how much each is receiving in 2009-10. [317247]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral aid delivered by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in recipient countries are published annually in "Statistics on International Development", which is available in the House Library or online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Final data for 2009-10 are not yet available and will be published in the 2010 edition of "Statistics on International Development".

Following is a list of some of the NGOs in Afghanistan and Pakistan that DFID has funded so far in 2009-10. For security reasons it is not possible to name all individual NGOs receiving direct funding from DFID in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan

HALO Trust
Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU)
The British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group (BAAG)
Agency Co-ordinating Body for Afghanistan Relief (ACBAR)
Mercy Corps
Peace Dividend Trust
War Child
BBC World Service Trust
Womankind
Relief International
Tiri
Actionaid UK

Pakistan

ACTED
Concern World Wide
Catholic Relief Services
Handicap International
International Committee of the Red Cross
International Medical Corps
International Relief Committee
Mercy Corps
Merlin
Muslim Aid
Oxfam GB
Relief International
Save the Children UK
Sarhad Rural Support Programme
Contact International
Rabta Consortium
Nai Zindagi
Family Health International
Rural Support Programme Network
Mountain Glacier Protection Organisation

Departmental Energy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the estimated *(a)* amount and *(b)* cost was of energy used in his Department in each year since 1997; what proportion of the energy used was generated from renewable sources in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [317225]

Mr. Michael Foster: The amount and cost of energy use of the Department for International Development's UK estate, for the last five years, (without any allowance for organisational changes or weather correction) are provided in the table.

	Amount (KWH)	*Cost (£)*	*Percentage from renewable sources*
2004-05			
Electricity	6,448,093	320,811	95
Gas	4,734,311	67,911	n/a
2005-06			
Electricity	7,055,585	454,478	95
Gas	4,851,902	109,635	n/a
2006-07			
Electricity	6,991,134	620,304	100
Gas	4,309,038	131,460	n/a
2007-08			
Electricity	6,642,910	573,520	100
Gas	4,383,404	103,294	n/a
2008-09			
Electricity	6,089,299	644,079	100
Gas	4,030,927	121,423	n/a

Information on environmental performance is supplied to the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) and the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC), in accordance with the Government targets set for Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE). Detailed information is available on the respective OGC and SDC websites. As a result of various measures taken by the Department for International Development (DFID), the carbon emissions after allowing for weather correction have reduced by 15 per cent. over the last two years. All energy is purchased via central Government framework contracts arranged by the Office of Government Commerce, and the variation in expenditure is partly attributable to the changes in unit costs under these contracts.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information in electronic format provided by his Department to the Iraq Inquiry that Inquiry has sought to publish under the procedure set out in the protocol on documents and other written and electronic information; and if he will make a statement. [314541]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer given to her by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 849W.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the funding provided by his Department to UNITAID was allocated to tuberculosis drugs, vaccine and diagnostics in the latest period for which figures are available. [316703]

Mr. Michael Foster: Donor contributions to UNITAID are not earmarked for specific purposes. At the end of 2009, the cumulative total of funding provided to UNITAID by all donors was $1,017,801,290. Of this amount grants supporting TB treatments and diagnostics were just over 11 per cent. at $113,379,034.

Overseas Aid: Climate Change

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of the £1.5 billion fast start finance for climate change adaptation programmes announced by the Prime Minister at the UN Climate Change Conference in December 2009 was additional to existing aid allocations. [315411]

Mr. Thomas: All fast start finance will contribute towards the existing Government Official Development Assistance (ODA) target of 0.7 per cent. of Gross National Income (GNI). In order to reach this target the UK's aid programme is growing and fast start will be financed from part of this growth. All of the £1.5 billion fast start finance is additional to spending on climate change in 2009-10.

Overseas Aid: Health Services

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to implement the World Health Assembly's resolution 62.15 on prevention and control of multidrug resistant tuberculosis and extensively drug resistant tuberculosis. [316704]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is working to implement resolution 62.15 and the earlier resolution 60.19 through our support to the delivery of the Global Plan to Stop TB 2006-15. We recognise that drug resistant strains of TB pose serious threats to achieving the goals of the Global Plan and are working with our partners to ensure that prompt quality diagnosis and effective treatment is available to those who need it.

This includes a 20-year commitment to UNITAID of up to €60 million per year by 2010. UNITAID aims to triple access to rapid testing for multi-drug resistant TB and to reduce the price of multi-drug resistant TB medicines by 25 per cent. by 2010. DFID funds research into new TB drugs and diagnostics, including through the Global Alliance for TB Drugs and the Tropical Disease Research special programme at the World Health Organisation (WHO). In 2006 DFID also provided an additional £1.6 million to the Stop TB Partnership to address extensively drug resistant TB in South Africa.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to promote the development and production of anti-tuberculosis drugs appropriate for children in developing countries. [316705]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to supporting the delivery of the Global Plan to Stop TB 2006-15, which specifically highlights children with tuberculosis.

As part of our support we have made a 20-year commitment to UNITAID, the international drugs purchasing facility, of up to €60 million per year by 2010. One of UNITAID's core areas of work is to support the development of, and access to, child-friendly TB medicine.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to implement commitments made by EU member states in the 2007 Berlin Declaration on Tuberculosis. [316706]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is working towards implementing commitments in the 2007 Berlin Declaration on TB through our support to the delivery of the Global Plan to Stop TB 2006-15. We do this through country programmes, multilateral organisations, global partnerships, research and through using our political voice in the G8 and other forums.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether an assessment has been made of the damage to projects in Gaza which have been *(a)* built and *(b)* financed by Government money since the Oslo Peace Accords. [317323]

Mr. Michael Foster: We have not made any specific assessments of the damage caused to projects in Gaza either built or financed with UK Government funding since the Oslo Peace Accords.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development to what *(a)* infrastructure, *(b)* institutions and *(c)* civic sites that have been built in Gaza since the Oslo Peace Accords the Government has contributed funding. [317324]

Mr. Michael Foster: Since the Oslo Peace Accords in 1993, the Department for International Development (DFID) has directly funded a number of small infrastructure and civic site projects in Gaza including repairs to the water and sanitation network, rehabilitation of damaged schools, creation of safe play areas for children, and repairs to approximately 70 kilometres of road. More information on the projects we currently fund is available on the DFID website.

DFID also provides core funding to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) which provide education, health care and housing to Palestinian refugees across the region. UNRWA spends approximately one third of its funding in Gaza, which includes infrastructure and civic sites such as health clinics and schools.

Western Sahara: Overseas Aid

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the oral answer from the Prime Minister of 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 688, on Western Sahara, when the level of aid to the Western Sahara will be increased. [317847]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: As set out by the Prime Minister on 13 January, the UK is doubling its aid to areas where there is a growth of ethnic violence. Over the last five years, the Department for International Development (DFID) has doubled aid to fragile and conflict-affected countries to £1.2 billion a year. The 2009 Development White Paper commits DFID to maintaining this momentum by allocating at least 50 per cent. of new bilateral country aid to fragile and conflict-affected countries.

DFID supports Western Sahara through its share of the budget if the European Community Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO). ECHO has provided €133 million in humanitarian aid to Western Sahara since it was established.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

BAE Systems: Fines

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Solicitor-General by what date BAE Systems will be required to pay the fine imposed on it in relation to its activities in Tanzania; and if she will make a statement. [317256]

The Solicitor-General: The financial aspects of the plea agreement reached between the SFO and BAE in relation to Tanzania are all subject to the approval of the Crown Court, which will determine the appropriate sentence including the period within which any financial penalties must be paid. Criminal proceedings will be commenced in due course.

BAE Systems: USA

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Solicitor-General what discussions the Attorney-General has had with the US Department of Justice on BAE Systems in the last 12 months. [317507]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General has had no such discussions.

Departmental Energy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Solicitor-General what the estimated *(a)* amount and *(b)* cost was of energy used in the Law Officers' Departments in each year since 1997; what proportion of the energy used was generated from renewable sources in each of those years; and if she will make a statement. [317239]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments have been reporting energy consumption and cost data since 2000-01 as part of the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) reporting process. The Law Officer's Departments are well above the existing Government targets in using renewable energy. Data prior to 2000-01 are not available and to obtain this information in order to inform a meaningful estimate would incur disproportionate cost.

The data reported relate solely to the Law Officers' Departments controlled estate and exclude properties where energy costs are included as part of a general service charge levied by landlords or the major Government occupier of the property. Data to identify energy costs and inform a meaningful estimate of energy usage in these properties are not available and to obtain them would incur disproportionate cost.

The data reported by the Law Officers' Departments for the years since 2000-01 are detailed in the following table. Cost figures for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are not available and are estimated based on 2006-07 cost.

	Cost (£ million)	*kWHrs (million)*	*Percentage renewable*
1997-98	n/a	n/a	n/a
1998-99	n/a	n/a	n/a
1999-2000	n/a	n/a	n/a
2000-01	1.18	30.1	n/a
2001-02	1.00	24.4	n/a
2002-03	1.01	26.4	24
2003-04	1.06	32.2	33
2004-05	1.35	34.2	30
2005-06	1.61	31.3	44
2006-07	1.89	31.0	46
2007-08	1.76	28.9	42
2008-09	1.99	32.6	35

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information in electronic format provided by the Law Officers' Department's to the Iraq Inquiry that Inquiry has sought to publish under the procedure set out in the protocol on documents and other written and electronic information; and if she will make a statement. [314542]

The Solicitor-General: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer given to her by the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Tessa Jowell) on 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 894W.

Special Advocates

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Solicitor-General whether special advocates have been employed in cases involving *(a)* naturalisation judicial reviews, *(b)* Parole Board hearings, *(c)* pre-charge detention hearings, *(d)* production order hearings, *(e)* planning inquiries, *(f)* family proceedings and *(g)* the Mental Health Review Tribunal since their introduction. [316617]

The Solicitor-General: The answer to the question the hon. Member for Hendon has posed may most helpfully be put in the form of a table, which appears as follows. The table relates to the UK and has been prepared with the assistance of the Office of the Solicitor to the Advocate-General for Scotland.

		Yes	*No*
(a)	Naturalisation Judicial Reviews	—	x
(b)	Parole Board Hearings	x	—
(c)	Pre-Charge Detention Hearings	—	x
(d)	Production Order Hearings	—	x
(e)	Planning Inquiries	—	x
(f)	Family Proceedings	x	—
(g)	Mental Health Review Tribunal	—	x

JUSTICE

Correctional Services Board: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* allocated budget for and *(b)* expenditure on fees for members of the Correctional Services Accreditation Panel was in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [317694]

Mr. Straw: The allocated budget for the Correctional Services Accreditation Panel (CSAP) in 2008-09 was £155,000. Expenditure on fees for panel members during that period was £121,363.63. A breakdown of budget costs is included in the Correctional Services Accreditation Panel Annual Report for 2008-09, which was published on the Ministry of Justice website on 1 February 2010.

Custodial Treatment: Young Offenders

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many custodial sentences have been imposed on young offenders in each youth offending team area in each of the last six months. [317526]

Claire Ward: The available information is shown in the following table. Data for the last six months are not available—data for each month of 2008 are supplied in lieu. Data for 2009 will be available when Sentencing Statistics 2009 is published in the autumn.

Data by region held on the courts proceedings database does not match exactly to Youth Offending Team areas which are based on local authority areas.

The criminal justice areas that make up each region are shown in the table.

Young offenders[1] sentenced to custody by region[2]

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
East Midlands	52	39	43	36	42	34	29	30	37	46	43	24
East of England	33	38	25	38	35	39	43	28	35	34	61	38
London	84	109	72	96	105	94	107	95	92	89	62	73
North East	22	24	26	21	23	12	22	24	12	18	14	12
North West	85	86	90	100	77	65	88	66	87	85	61	57
South East	46	32	39	44	49	38	44	46	48	39	35	50
South West	16	14	17	20	22	22	15	26	20	18	23	25
Wales	27	23	25	27	31	33	21	20	21	29	17	20
West Midlands	58	47	47	65	59	63	27	47	49	61	43	45
Yorkshire and Humberside	57	56	58	87	50	54	63	45	58	58	56	46

Young offenders[1] sentenced to custody by region[2]

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total	480	468	442	534	493	454	459	427	459	477	415	390

[1] Young offenders are those aged under 18 at the point of sentence.

[2] Data by region held on the courts proceedings database does not match exactly to Youth Offending Team areas. The following Criminal Justice Areas are contained within each region:

East Midlands
Derbyshire
Leicestershire
Lincolnshire
Northamptonshire
Nottinghamshire
East of England
Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Essex
Hertfordshire
Norfolk
Suffolk
London
London
North East
Cleveland
Durham
Northumbria
North West
Cheshire
Cumbria
Greater Manchester
Lancashire
Merseyside
South East
Hampshire
Kent
Surrey
Sussex
Thames Valley
South West
Avon and Somerset
Devon and Cornwall
Dorset
Gloucestershire
Wiltshire
Wales
Dyfed-Powys
Gwent
North Wales
South Wales
West Midlands
Staffordshire
Warwickshire
West Mercia
West Midlands
Yorkshire and Humberside
Humberside
North Yorkshire
South Yorkshire
West Yorkshire

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

Justice Statistics—Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice Ref: PQ(JSAS)317526 17/02/2010.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many plasma screen televisions his Department has purchased since 2001; and what the cost has been of purchasing and installing such screens in each such year. [306079]

Mr. Wills: Flat screen televisions may be plasma or LCD. It is not possible to determine which type of flat screen has been purchased in all cases, except at the disproportionate cost of physically examining all of the TVs or retrieving all invoices which are filed locally around the business.

Similarly it is not possible to identify the purpose of these purchases in all cases, except at disproportionate cost. However, no flat screen TVs have been purchased for prisoners' cells.

Expenditure between October 2008 to November 2009

Since October 2008, the Ministry of Justice has had one main supplier for the provision of flat screen televisions. From the start of this contract up to November 2009, £139,676 was spent on flat screen televisions. This figure excludes the costs of installation which is undertaken by local estates teams across the Ministry. Installation costs cannot be separately quantified but represent a tiny element of the work of estates teams. Procurement records indicate that flat screen television expenditure included 10 plasma screen televisions at a cost of £6,180.

It is possible, though unlikely, that some further expenditure may have been incurred outside of the contract using the Government Procurement Card (GPC). To investigate whether any flat screen televisions, DVD players or stereo equipment had been purchased with the GPC card would incur disproportionate cost.

Expenditure prior to October 2008

Prior to October 2008, there was one main supplier for the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) part of the business. Expenditure under this contract was £26,454 in 2007-08, with no expenditure recorded prior to that date. It is not known whether these televisions were plasmas or LCDs.

The Tribunals Service also had a single contract for the supply of flat screen TVs. Expenditure under this contract was a fixed annual contractual sum of £10,000 per annum, starting from 2006-07. It is not known whether these televisions were plasmas or LCDs.

The wider Ministry operated numerous local contracts and it is not possible to determine total expenditure on flat screen televisions prior to October 2008 without incurring the disproportionate cost of examining individual transactions incurred under local contracts. However, between March 2006 and March 2008, 397 flat screen television screens were purchased at a total cost of £516,478 by HM Courts Service, mainly in connection with the Videolinks Project, which allows vulnerable witnesses to take part in trials without actually being present. Videolinks also connects to a number of prisons, which saves money by allowing certain meetings and proceedings to occur which would otherwise require prisoner transport and accommodation.

Departmental Energy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the estimated *(a)* amount and *(b)* cost was of energy used in his Department and its agencies in each year since 1997; what proportion of the energy used was generated from renewable sources in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [317203]

Mr. Wills: Since the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) was created in May 2007, the estimated reported amount of energy used in MOJ and its agencies and the cost is:

	Energy consumption 2007-08 kWh	*Cost 2007-08 (£)*	*Energy consumption 2008-09 kWh*	*Cost 2008-09 (£)*
Total	1,797,466,581	79,056,169.68	1,764,553,696	105,493,183

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications.php?id=848

Central Government Departments and their executive agencies had a target to source at least 10 per cent. of electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008. The proportion of energy generated from renewable sources for MOJ and its agencies was 8 per cent. in 2007-08. MOJ sourced 20 per cent. of its energy from renewable sources during 2008-09.

Published data for 2007-08 can be found at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications.php?id=849

Published data for 2008-09 can found at:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/sustainable_development_in_government_chp_consumption_and_ renewables.asp

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department and its agencies *(a)* have the status of embedded communicators and *(b)* are members of the Government Communications Network but are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book. [315165]

Mr. Wills: The following table lists the number of staff in embedded communications roles in the Ministry of Justice. The embedded communications staff is employed primarily in communications roles based in policy and delivery units outside central communications functions.

MOJ Group	*Headcount (FTE) as of January 2010*	*GCN members*
Corporate Performance Group	6.5	5
Democracy, Constitution and Law	3	2
Access to Justice	0	0
National Offender Management Service	17	n/a
Criminal Justice	11.6	5
Total MOJ	38.1	—

The Government Communications Network (GCN) membership is voluntary and not required to work in a communications role. Data on GCN membership are not collected and neither are they stored by the Ministry of Justice. The Cabinet Office unit who administer the GCN are unable to share membership data without the permission of individual members. Therefore it is not possible to readily provide accurate information for National Offender Management Service.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many layers of management reporting from the most senior to the most junior there are in his Department and each of its agencies; how many officials are employed in each such layer; and how much was spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff at each such layer in the latest year for which information is available. [312822]

Mr. Wills: Staff employed by the Ministry of Justice (excluding the National Offender Management Service (NOMS)) below the senior civil service (SCS) and its agencies (Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS) and the Tribunals Service) are employed on the same terms and conditions. They work in job roles aligned to one of seven pay bands/grades—four of which may include management responsibilities. Allocation of a job role to a particular pay band is determined by the level of the level of responsibility and job evaluation. This grading system is comparable with the standard civil service grading system. In levels of descending seniority management grades below the SCS are:

Band A is the highest (typical job roles include qualified solicitors or accountants and senior operational managers)

Band B and C, which are middle management job roles (these may include junior lawyers or accountants, and legal advisors in magistrates courts)

Band D job roles, which are the first level of supervision.

The pay and grading structure for the SCS is managed by the Cabinet Office and is common across all civil service departments.

Details of each level of management responsibility (including SCS), the number of staff in each layer, and the amount spent on staff salaries are contained in the following table.

Management level	*Equivalent civil service descriptor*	*Number of staff*	*Salary costs (£)*
Corporate management board	Permanent Secretary and Director General	10	2,028,371
SCS Payband 2	Director	45	8,911,000
SCS Payband 1	Deputy Director	195	20,332,896
Band A	Grade 6 and Grade 7	1,551	98,375,515
Band B	Senior Executive Officer	2,477	112,987,699
Band C	Higher Executive Officer	1,986	57,845,114
Band D	Executive Officer	4,673	123,435,357

Notes:

1. The information provides details of basic salary but excludes payments of allowances, overtime and non-consolidated performance pay. Employers National Insurance and Pensions Contributions have been averaged at 19 per cent. for Bands A to F and 34 per cent. for SCS.
2. The information provided in the table relates to salary payments to staff working on the Ministry of Justice 'Deal' terms and conditions.
3. Details of the Permanent Secretary's remuneration is available in the MOJ Resource Accounts.
4. Latest salary cost information are for implementation of 2009-10 pay award effective 1 August 2009 with details of staff in post at that time.

Since July 2000, NOMS has operated a common unified pay structure for senior and middle managerial grades within 'Phase One' of their pay and grading arrangements. Roles are placed in one of seven paybands ranging from Senior Manager A to Manager G, which is determined by the level of responsibility of the role. Other grades on separate pay scales outside of 'Phase One' also provide a managerial function. These include Principal and Senior Prison Officers.

Senior Manager A is the highest management level (typical roles include Governors of high security prisons). Typical middle management roles are placed at Manager E, F or G (roles at these levels include operational or administrative managers). Details of each level of management responsibility, the number of staff in each payband and the total amount spent on staff salaries and associated employment costs for the latest period for which figures are available (1 April 2009 to 31 December 2009) are set out in the following table.

Management level	*Equivalent civil service descriptor*	*Number of staff*	*Salary costs (£)*
Senior Manager A	Grade 6	59	5,124,929
Senior Manager B	Grade 6	144	10,917,688
Senior Manager C	Grade 7	145	10,037,610
Senior Manager D	Grade 7	571	35,856,917
Manager E	SEO	1,336	62,313,486
Manager F	SEO	1,434	96,423,228
Manager G	HEO	921	27,067,627
Managerial grades outside of phase one of pay and grading	No single grade descriptor[1]	8,022	237,101,414

[1] These grades include roles such as senior officer and principal officer.

Note:

Staff in post information is for December 2009.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the travel guidance issued to staff of each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies. [314924]

Mr. Wills: Travel guidance for staff working in the Ministry of Justice and its agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) encompasses a number of different publications and either relates to the terms on which individuals claim reimbursement for business related travel, or health and safety advice. Any expenditure authorised for staff travelling on behalf of the Ministry is made in accordance with regulations on managing public money.

Publications with travel guidance include:

The Safe Driving at Work Policy Statement

Travel and Subsistence Policy

Information for staff travelling to work in bad weather.

I will place the information referred to above relating to the Ministry of Justice (and where different, its agencies and NDPBs) in the House of Commons Library.

Driving Offences: Suffolk

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* convictions, *(b)* cautions and *(c)* fixed penalty notices have been given to people arrested for speeding offences in Suffolk in each year since 1997. [314868]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

Data from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) on fixed penalty notices issued for speeding offences in Suffolk police force area are provided in table A.

Data provided by the Ministry of Justice, showing the number of convictions for speeding offences and vehicle registration and excise licence offences in Suffolk from 1997 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in Table B.

Cautions are not issued by the police for speeding offences.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are expected to be published in the autumn 2010.

Table A: Number of fixed penalty notices issued for speed limit offences, Suffolk police force area, 1997 to 2007[1]

	Number of notices
1997	7,271
1998	12,640
1999	18,088
2000	12,596
2001	12,416
2002	9,477
2003	16,606
2004	40,847
2005	40,029
2006	34,442
2007	30,378

[1] From 2000 onwards the national safety camera programme was introduced which increased enforcement of speeding offences.

Table B: Number of convictions for speed limit offences in Suffolk from 1997 to 2008[1]

Number of offences

	Convicted at all courts											
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Speed limit offences	1,052	1,469	1,678	1,233	1,252	1,284	776	1,856	3,249	3,054	3,418	3,577

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

Ref: IOS 056-10 and Ref: IOS 057-10

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* convictions, *(b)* cautions and *(c)* fixed penalty notices have been given to people arrested for driving without a valid MOT certificate in Suffolk in each year since 1997. [314869]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply

Data from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) on fixed penalty notices issued for vehicle test (MOT) offences in Suffolk police force area are provided in table A.

Data on the number of convictions for vehicle test offences in Suffolk from 1997 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in table B.

Data on fixed penalty notices held by the Home Office and Ministry of Justice cannot separately identify the specific offence of driving a vehicle without a valid MOT certificate. The following table shows the total number convictions for all vehicle test offences.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are expected to be published in autumn 2010.

Table A: Number of fixed penalty notices issued for vehicle test offences, Suffolk police force area, 1997 to 2007

	Number of notices
1997	—
1998	—
1999	—
2000	—
2001	2
2002	1
2003	—
2004	—
2005	—
2006	60
2007	471

Table B: Number of convictions for vehicle test offences in Suffolk 1997 to 2008[1]

Number of offences

	Convicted at all courts											
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Vehicle test offences	1,707	1,757	1,951	1,769	1,717	2,009	2,309	2,180	1,588	1,196[2]	777	474

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used. *Source:* Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice (Ref: IOS 056-10) and (Ref: IOS 057-10).

Electoral Register: Overseas Residence

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of eligible overseas electors who are registered to vote. [317266]

Mr. Wills: The Government are keen to enhance registration rates generally, including among overseas electors. The Government have laid a statutory instrument in Parliament which extends the service voter declaration period from three to five years in respect of members of the armed forces, and their spouses or civil partners. This is intended to facilitate higher levels of registration among overseas service personnel.

The Electoral Commission promote awareness of UK electoral systems and electoral registration procedures including how to vote, and has conducted a series of promotional campaigns aimed at enhancing the registration rates among overseas electors more generally. The latest campaign ran in autumn 2009. I understand that it included online advertising using websites popular with British citizens living abroad and the distribution of information via British consulates and embassies. The campaign resulted in almost 25,000 visits to the overseas voters page of the Commission's About My Vote website. More than 7,000 overseas voter registration forms were downloaded from the site during the campaign.

The Commission will also target British citizens living abroad as part of its campaign ahead of a UK parliamentary general election. The campaign will encourage people to register to vote and also make them aware of the absent voting options available to them.

Human Trafficking: Victims

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps his Department has taken to support victims of human trafficking. [316986]

Maria Eagle: From 2003-09 we invested £5.8 million in the poppy Project to provide specialist support to women trafficked into sexual exploitation only. Over the current and next financial year we have invested an additional £3.9 million in the provision of specialist support to victims of all forms of human trafficking, including victims of sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and forced labour. This includes as a minimum: safe accommodation; advocacy; access to counselling; access to legal advice and interpretative services.

A National Referral Mechanism (NRM) has been put in place to systematically identify victims and refer them to specialist support. Identified victims are granted an extendable 45-day recovery and reflection period in which to consider their options and access specialist support services, and one-year temporary residency permits in certain circumstances.

A victim's information leaflet, produced in October 2009 is now available in a range of languages. The leaflet provides information for victims on the support available to them, their options and legal rights.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information in electronic format provided by his Department to the Iraq Inquiry that Inquiry has sought to publish under the procedure set out in the protocol on documents and other written and electronic information; and if he will make a statement. [314543]

Mr. Wills: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office, and for the Olympics and Paymaster General (Tessa Jowell) on 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 893-94W.

Land Registry: Manpower

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people the Land Registry employed on the latest date for which figures are available. [316797]

Mr. Wills: The latest figures available are for 1 February 2010 and are shown in the following table. The figures shown under "off strength" refer to staff who remain employees of Land Registry but are not currently on the payroll, for example staff who are on career breaks or unpaid maternity leave or unpaid special leave.

	Number
Headcount	
On strength	6,263
Off strength	128
Total	6,391
Full time equivalents	
On strength	5,665
Off strength	100
Total	5,765

Land Registry: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the proposed closure of the Land Registry's Peterborough office; and if he will make a statement. [317751]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry published their Accelerated Transformation Proposals on 22 October 2009. A public consultation on the proposal to close five offices closures ended on 29 January 2010. The Peterborough Land Registry office was one of those proposed for closure.

Land Registry have received responses from local MPs and MEPs in Peterborough and the surrounding area, and from their constituents, regarding these proposals. All contributions are now being considered and Land Registry currently plans to announce final decisions and publish a full responses document in March.

Life Imprisonment

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average tariff given with a mandatory life sentence was in each of the last 10 years. [316328]

Mr. Straw: The average length of tariff given to offenders sentenced to a mandatory life sentence in each of the last 10 years, as at 5 February 2010, is shown in the following table.

Year of sentence	*Number sentenced*	*Average days*	*Average in years (1 year = 365 days)*
2000	251	5,228	14.32
2001	278	5,111	14.00
2002	304	4,814	13.19
2003	280	4,992	13.68
2004	355	5,298	14.52
2005	366	5,891	16.14
2006	383	6,402	17.54
2007	353	5,806	15.91
2008	435	6,556	17.96
2009	317	6,402	17.54
Totals	3,322	—	—

The figures include those sentenced to a mandatory life sentence that subsequently had their sentence quashed or died. In a further 144 cases of prisoners sentenced over this period, the courts have yet to determine the length of tariff or the prisoner was given a life sentence by another jurisdiction. The figures also exclude those life sentence prisoners who have been given a whole life tariff. There were 19 whole life tariffs handed down by the courts during this period.

The figures were taken from the Public Protection Unit Database (PPUD) in the National Offender Management Service, and, as with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing. The PPUD is a live database, updated on a regular basis. As a result, snapshots taken in consecutive days will contain differences reflecting updates.

National Offender Management Service

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* role and *(b)* responsibilities will be of the Chief Executive Officer of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS); and what the (i) role and (ii) responsibilities have been of the Director General of NOMS. [313367]

Mr. Straw: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is an Executive agency of the Ministry of Justice through which correctional services and interventions are commissioned and provided across England and Wales, within the strategic policy framework set by the UK Government. It is responsible for commissioning adult offender services and delivering these through a range of providers from the public, private and third sectors, as efficiently and effectively as possible, in all of the regions of England and Wales. The agency is also commissioned by the Youth Justice Board to provide youth custody places in young offender institutions.

The chief executive is the director general of NOMS. These are not different roles. The responsibilities of the chief executive are:

(a) reports to the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Justice and is a member of the Ministry's Corporate Management Board (CMB), fully contributing to the strategic direction of the Ministry and jointly accountable as such for its collective performance;

(b) supports Ministers, the permanent secretary and the Ministry of Justice's CMB by delivering against departmental strategic objective 3—protecting the public and reducing re-offending—and he/she is ultimately accountable to the Secretary of State for the overall performance of the agency and the delivery of its plans, objectives, targets and standards;

(c) as the accounting officer for the agency, he or she is responsible for managing, allocating and accounting for the budget of NOMS agency;

(d) has a key role in influencing other Government Departments to address the needs of offenders, and in providing feedback to sentencing bodies and others about the delivery and outcomes of various sentencing options; and.

(e) has overall leadership responsibility for the strategic direction and performance of the agency.

There is, however, a separate role of chief operating officer, also at DG level, which is responsible for delivery of prison and probation operations to meet MOJ strategic objectives on 'helping to protect the public and reduce re-offending'; specifically:

Development of a coherent regional delivery model to support the efficient and effective management of offenders in custody and community to protect the public and reduce reoffending;

Delivery of an integrated efficient and effective offender management system;

Development of realistic and deliverable reducing reoffending action plans, to achieve a 10 per cent. reduction in re-offending by 2011-12.

The chief operating officer is also responsible for ensuring operational delivery risks and constraints are fully understood and considered in developing the direction of the NOMS agency and in development of criminal justice strategy within MOJ.

Offences Against Children: Convictions

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1438W, on children: abuse, how many people aged 21 years and over with a previous conviction were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for offences relating to child abuse in 2008. [317143]

Mr. Straw: According to information recorded by the police on the Police National Computer (PNC) there were 1,323 offenders aged 21 and over who were convicted in 2008 in England and Wales of offences relating to child abuse; at the time of their conviction 721 of these had one or more previous convictions for offences of any kind. Equivalent figures for offenders who have been prosecuted are not available.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police. PNC data have been used here rather than court proceedings data, which are the usual source of published conviction statistics, as the PNC provides information on the criminal history of offenders.

Open Prisons

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 933W, on open prisons, how many prisoners convicted of murder were held in open prison in each of the last five years. [316497]

Mr. Straw: The following table gives figures for the numbers of prisoners serving sentences for murder held in open prisons in the years between 2005 and 2009:

Prisoners held in open prisons serving sentences for murder 2005-09

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total	350	310	260	270	275
Askham Grange	5	5	5	5	10
Ford	40	40	25	35	25
Hewell[1]	0	0	0	5	10
Hollesley Bay	20	10	15	15	20
Kirkham	25	25	25	30	30
Leyhill	85	75	60	55	50
Moorland Open	0	0	0	0	0
North Sea Camp	40	30	20	15	25
Prescoed	35	25	20	20	15
Spring Hill	20	20	15	15	15
Standford Hill	15	10	20	15	10
Sudbury	65	65	50	55	60
East Sutton Park	0	5	5	5	5

[1] Hewell consists of three units; only the open unit has been counted.

Note:

Totals rounded to the nearest five; figures for June each year.

The total number of prisoners convicted of murder and in prison was around 4,900 at the end of June 2009. The figure in the open estate is therefore 5 per cent of the total. There have been open prisons since 1936 and they are widely accepted as the most effective means of ensuring prisoners are tested in the community before they are released. To release prisoners directly from a closed prison without the resettlement benefits of the open estate would undoubtedly lead to higher levels of post-release reoffending.

Prisoners are assessed objectively in a process looking at all aspects of their offending behaviour, actions they have taken to reduce their likelihood of reoffending and the risk they pose to the public. They are placed in the lowest security category consistent with their assessed risk. Only prisoners placed in the lowest security category

(D) may be allocated to open conditions. If their behaviour becomes a cause for concern, they can be moved back to more secure conditions.

Prisoners convicted of murder serving life sentences and other indeterminate sentence prisoners will be transferred from closed to open prison conditions only following the acceptance of a Parole Board recommendation to the Secretary of State. Before making such a recommendation, the Parole Board must be satisfied that the case meets the criteria set out in the Directions to the Parole Board under section 32(6) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, of which the risk of abscond is a central factor.

Transfer of any prisoner to open conditions will only take place if continued detention in closed conditions is no longer necessary for the protection of the public. Open conditions allow prisoners to find work, re-establish family ties and reintegrate into the community. All these are essential components for successful resettlement and an important factor in protecting the public.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. Totals for each prison have been rounded to the nearest five and the grand total to the nearest 10; separately rounded sub-totals may not add to the rounded total.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Political Parties

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 5 January 2010 from the hon. Member representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, whether he has given a direction to the Electoral Commission on which of the UK's electoral regions should receive the additional European Parliament seat provided for under the Treaty of Lisbon. [316917]

Mr. Wills: No. The Government will ask the Electoral Commission to make a recommendation on this issue in due course.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Chesterfield of 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 546W, on prison accommodation, how many places were not included in the certified normal accommodation of the prison estate in each of the last three years. [317144]

Mr. Straw: This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost as it would require a manual trawl of the changes to every establishment's certified normal accommodation over the last three years.

Prisoners Release: Domestic Violence

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answers of 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 741W and 742W, on prisoners' release: domestic violence and prisoners' release: reoffenders, whether any offender on end of custody licence has been *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of an offence (i) relating to domestic violence and (ii) of manslaughter since 2 November 2009. [317141]

Mr. Straw: Determinate sentenced prisoners may be released into the community up to 18 days earlier than the halfway point of their sentence under the End of Custody Licence (ECL) Scheme. Indeterminate sentenced prisoners are not eligible for ECL.

Data on ECL releases, recalls and alleged re-offending are published every month on the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

The total number of alleged further offences committed by prisoners during their period of ECL as notified to NOMS for period 29 June 2007 to 31 December 2009 is 1,543, as published in the ECL releases and recalls statistical bulletin published on 29 January 2010.

Where the National Offender Management Offender Service (NOMS) is notified of a further charge while an offender is subject to ECL, it is not centrally recorded as to whether the offence was specifically in relation to violence within a domestic setting. Such information would be contained within individual records and could only be collated by manual checking of individual case details and could only be carried out at disproportionate cost.

In addition to data held on offenders who are notified to the National Offender Management Service as having been charged with an offence while subject to ECL, of those offenders who since 2 November 2009 were released on ECL and who were subject to probation supervision, NOMS has received no notification in line with serious further offences procedures that there has been any case where an offender has been charged with manslaughter.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convicted foreign national prisoners were released from prisons in England and Wales in the last 12 months. [317129]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I provided on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 801W.

> "The number of discharges of foreign national prisoners from completed determinate sentences in 2008 was 9,500. This figure has been rounded to the nearest 100.
>
> Data for 2009 are not yet available.
>
> These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing."

Data for 2009 will be available following publication of Offender Management Caseload statistics 2009, scheduled for release in July 2010.

Prisons: Drugs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the relationship between the supply of illicit drugs into prison and the effectiveness of drug treatment in prisons; and what assessment was made of the merits of including demand for illegal drugs in the remit of the Blakey Review. [316183]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has a comprehensive drug strategy for prisons. It has three key elements that interlink to reduce drug related offending and address individual need:

- reducing supply, through security measures and drug testing programmes;
- reducing demand, through targeted interventions for low, moderate and severe drug-misusers; and
- establishing effective through-care links to ensure continuity of treatment post-release in order to safeguard the gains made in custody.

The overall success of the strategy is evidenced by the reduction in drug misuse in prisons, as measured by random mandatory drug testing. Since 1996-97 the proportion of prisoners testing positive has declined by 68 per cent. In 2008-09 prisons undertook 5.4 per cent. more random mandatory drug tests than in 1996-97. The reduced availability of drugs in prisons provides a firm foundation on which to deliver drug treatment.

NOMS has in place a comprehensive drug treatment framework, based on the National Treatment Agency's Models of Care, to address the needs of drug misusing prisoners. The interventions available are designed to meet the needs of low, moderate and severe drug misusers—irrespective of age, gender or ethnicity. Since 1996-97 funding for prison drug treatment has increased year on year, and is now over 15 times that of 1997 (total 2009-10 allocation is around £112 million).

On 31 January 2008 the Justice Secretary's paper, "Prison Policy Update", set out the steps being taken to tackle drug misuse in prison. Following this the Justice Secretary and the NOMS Director General commissioned two reviews—David Blakey's review "Disrupting the supply of illicit drugs into prisons" and the Prison Drug Treatment Strategy Review Group led by Lord Patel. The focus of the two reviews was complementary, covering respectively security and treatment issues. Together they addressed the range of issues associated with illegal drugs in prison.

Voting Systems

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has made a recent assessment of the likely effects of the implementation of a preferential voting system on the number of invalid votes cast in an election. [316318]

Mr. Straw: The Government's "Review of Voting Systems", published in 2008, found that

> "there was no conclusive evidence that any one particular voting system is more confusing for the voter, in terms of casting their votes correctly, than any other system".

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of *(a)* juveniles and *(b)* young adult offenders was reconvicted within two years of release in each year since 1997. [317968]

Maria Eagle: Reoffending data are based on offences committed within one year of an offenders' release from custody. Reoffending data covering time periods longer than one year are not collated.

Data on the reoffending of juveniles and young adults from before 2000 are not available.

The proportion of juveniles that committed a proven offence within one year of leaving custody is shown in table 1.

Table 1: Reoffending rates of juveniles discharged from custody, 2000, 2002-07

Cohort	*Number of offenders discharged from custody*	*Percentage reoffending within one year*
Q1 2000	912	75.7
Q1 2002	959	72.9
Q1 2003	786	73.8
Q1 2004	815	76.4
Q1 2005	844	73.1
Q1 2006	817	77.0
Q1 2007	778	75.3

The proportion of young adults that committed a proven offence within one year of leaving custody is shown in table 2.

Table 2: Reoffending rates of young adults discharged from custody, 2000, 2002-07, by age band

Age group	*Cohort*	*Number of offenders discharged from custody*	*Percentage reoffending within one year*
18-20	Q1 2000	2,700	64.6
	Q1 2002	2,462	65.3
	Q1 2003	2,133	62.2
	Q1 2004	2,131	60.2
	Q1 2005	1,978	58.3
	Q1 2006	1,816	55.2
	Q1 2007	1,687	58.7
21-24	Q1 2000	3,338	58.5
	Q1 2002	3,508	60.4
	Q1 2003	3,237	60.0
	Q1 2004	3,311	55.2
	Q1 2005	2,938	52.5
	Q1 2006	2,763	49.0
	Q1 2007	2,349	49.4
Total	Q1 2000	6,038	61.3
	Q1 2002	5,970	62.4
	Q1 2003	5,370	60.9
	Q1 2004	5,442	57.2
	Q1 2005	4,916	54.8
	Q1 2006	4,579	51.5
	Q1 2007	4,036	53.3

Reoffending data are not available for 2001 due to a problem with archived data on court orders.

Please note that the definition of a proven reoffence differs between adults and juveniles. For adults, any offence within a year of release from custody, that is proven by court conviction within 18 months of release, is counted as a reoffence. For juveniles, an offence proven by court conviction or a caution within the same time period is counted as a reoffence. For these reasons the adult and juvenile reoffending rates are not comparable.

The frequency of reoffending by juveniles given an out of court disposal, commencing a non-custodial court disposal or discharged from custody in England and Wales fell by 23.6 per cent. from 151.4 offences per 100 offenders in 2000 to 115.7 in 2007.

Further information on adult reoffending is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Further information on juvenile reoffending is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingjuveniles.htm

In England, the number of offenders aged 10-17 entering the criminal justice system for the first time fell from 94,481 in 2007-08 to 74,033 in 2008-09—a 21.6 per cent. decrease.

Further information on first time entrants is available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000895/index.shtml

Youth Justice Board: Finance

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding the Youth Justice Board is providing to the Prison Service's Women and Young People Group in 2009-10. [317525]

Maria Eagle: The Youth Justice Board has provided NOMS Service Development Group (formerly Women's and Young People's Group) with £118.180 million of funding to deliver approximately 2,400 custodial places and associated services for all young men aged 15 to 17 and 17-year-old young women during the 2009-10 period. On occasion this may also include 16-year-old young women and 18 to 19-year-old young men and women.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 22 February 2010

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Homebuy providers there are in each region. [316739]

John Healey: The following table shows the number of providers who have been allocated funding for Homebuy schemes within the 2008-11 National Affordable Housing Programme.

Region	*Number of providers*
East Midlands	39
East of England	48
London	54
North East	21
North West	37
South East	52
South West	30
West Midlands	34
Yorkshire and Humberside	36

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on the Rent to HomeBuy scheme in each region on the latest date for which figures are available. [316759]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 866-68W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the average income of a Rent to HomeBuy *(a)* tenant and *(b)* purchaser was in each of the last three years; [316760]

(2) how many homes were rented under the Rent to HomeBuy scheme in each region in each of the last three years; [316762]

(3) how many active tenancies there are under the Rent to HomeBuy scheme in each Government Office region. [316763]

John Healey: Rent to HomeBuy was launched in July 2008. Data on the number of homes rented, active tenancies and the average income of tenants and purchasers are not held centrally.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Rent to HomeBuy completions there have been in 2009-10; and how many households have purchased a stake in their home under that scheme in 2009-10. [316761]

John Healey: Provisional data from the Homes and Communities Agency show that there were 4,899 Rent to HomeBuy completions up to end September 2009.

Data are not held centrally on the number of purchases under Rent to HomeBuy.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the term Homebuy is monitored as part of *(a)* his Department's media monitoring and *(b)* media monitoring undertaken by a private consultancy on behalf of his Department. [316933]

John Healey: Yes.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many officials in his Department administer the Homebuy scheme. [316968]

John Healey: The homebuy scheme is administered by the Homes and Communities Agency on behalf of the Department. There are nine full-time equivalent employees working on low cost home ownership policy, including delivery of the homebuy scheme, within the Department.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times the eligibility criteria for participation in the Homebuy scheme have changed since the inception of the scheme; and if he will list each such change. [316969]

John Healey: The homebuy scheme was introduced in 2006. Households with an income of up to £60,000 who were unable to buy a home on the open market without assistance, were eligible to apply for assistance. The basic eligibility criteria has not changed.

From 2006-08 priority for support was given to social tenants, prospective social tenants, key workers in the health, education and community safety sectors in London, the South East and the East of England, and those identified by regional housing boards. Some regional boards set lower income caps for support. From 2008 priority was given, in order, to social tenants, prospective social tenants, key workers in all regions and any other first-time buyers.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which programmes are included in the Homebuy scheme; how much has been allocated to each such programme to date; and how many dwellings have been sold under each such programme to date. [316974]

John Healey: The following products are included in the Homebuy scheme; OpenMarket HomeBuy, NewBuild HomeBuy, Social HomeBuy, HomeBuy Direct, and Rent to HomeBuy.

The allocations and provisional completions for each product are listed in the following tables.

Allocations

£

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Open Market HomeBuy	78,890,252	84,507,252	212,919,256
New Build HomeBuy	403,234,599	373,239,643	203,239,702
Social HomeBuy	536,400	1,912,175	973,175
HomeBuy Direct	0	0	0
Rent to HomeBuy	0	0	123,526,245
	482,661 251	459,659,070	540,658,378

Completions

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Open Market HomeBuy	2,337	2,876	6,216
New Build HomeBuy	3,023	10,131	8,898
Social HomeBuy	47	157	93
HomeBuy Direct	0	0	0
Rent to HomeBuy	0	0	1,173
	5,407	13,164	16,380

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much funding his Department has allocated to the Homebuy scheme in financial year 2009-10 to date; how much such funding it expects to allocate in financial years *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15; and how much such funding it expects to allocate beyond financial year 2014-15; [317007]

(2) how much funding his Department has allocated to low cost income ownership programmes in financial year 2009-10 to date; how much such funding it expects to allocate in financial years *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15; and how much such funding it expects to allocate beyond financial year 2014-15. [317008]

John Healey: From 1 April 2009 to 30 December 2009 the Homes and Communities Agency has allocated £1,082 million for Homebuy and other low cost home ownership products within their Affordable Housing Programme.

Allocations for the Affordable Housing Programme 2008-11 are made as part of the Homes and Communities continuous market engagement process. Future estimated levels of allocations beyond 2010-11 will be dependent upon the outcome of the next spending review.

Buildings: Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties on the *(a)* domestic and *(b)* non-domestic Energy Performance Certificate Register have received more than one inspection in the last three years; and for how many the rating (i) declined and (ii) improved in the last inspection. [316815]

John Healey: There is no information held centrally about the number of energy assessments that are carried out on individual buildings in either the domestic or non-domestic sectors.

Community Development: Business

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on *(a)* assistance to businesses, *(b)* staffing, *(c)* administration and *(d)* publicity under the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative since its inception; and how many businesses have been assisted by the initiative. [317702]

Ms Rosie Winterton: LEGI is allocated to local authorities to support enterprise in deprived areas, thereby giving them the flexibility to best determine the local needs and use the funding in creative ways to support local priorities. The total programme from 2006-07 to 2010-11 is worth £418 million.

As a locally managed fund, central Government do not hold the information requested.

However, an independent national evaluation of LEGI is scheduled to be published later this year which will help to [illegible] and disseminate good practice.

Eco-Towns

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what factors his Department plans to take into account in awarding the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum allocations to each of the eco-town projects, as referred to in the notes for editors of his Department's press notice of 8 February 2010; [316946]

(2) what proportion of the funding announced in his Department's press notice of 8 February 2010 on eco-towns will come from each programme budget of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency; and what proportion of the funding will come from the Department for Children, Schools and Families. [316951]

John Healey: Details about the programme budgets to support the first wave eco-towns in 200-10 will be set out in the Spring Supplementaries, which are due to be published shortly.

The majority of the £60 million growth fund that I announced last July to support the first wave locations has been allocated to local authorities and will be paid via the HCA. In addition we have provided support for the HCA's delivery role. DCSF have allocated £2.5 million from their programme budget to support greener schools.

I will decide on the funding allocations to the local authorities for 2010-11, pending further assessment of development agreements with investors. We will also need to take account of a range of factors including progress on delivery of projects, and we and the HCA will be having further discussion with authorities on these matters.

Empty Property: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of properties in West Lancashire constituency which have been empty for more than *(a)* two and *(b)* five years. [317777]

Barbara Follett: This information for either domestic or non-domestic properties is not held centrally.

Our reforms to empty property relief for non-domestic are principled and right for the long-term. They provide a strong incentive on owners to bring empty property back into use, helping to improve access to premises for businesses and so to exert a downward pressure on commercial rents.

However, we provided owners with real help to manage short-term pressures in a difficult property market by exempting all empty properties with rateable values up to £15,000 from business rates in 2009-10.

We have listened to the continued concerns of owners and we are extending the temporary measure for a further 12 months—to cover the whole of 2010-11—and we are uprating the threshold to £18,000 in line with the general movement of property values at revaluation.

Fire Services: Pensions

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 770W, on local government and fire services: pensions, what the timetable is for the review of whether to restrict the employer contributions made to the firefighters' pension scheme. [317877]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Firefighters Pension Committee has begun to consider the application of cap and share arrangements for the firefighters' pension schemes. Further meetings of the Committee have been arranged and the next one takes place on 15 March 2010. Consultations with stakeholders will follow once the arrangements have been drafted.

Government Offices for the Regions: Finance

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which programme budgets are administered for each Government Department by the Government Offices for the Regions. [317369]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her by the Secretary of State on 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1029W.

Home Information Packs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 3 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 359-60W, on home information packs, if he will place in the Library a copy of the final report by the Working Group on Condition Information in the Home Buying and Selling Process; on what date the report was submitted to his Department; and what steps he plans to take in response to that report. [316781]

Mr. Ian Austin: The final report of the Working Group on Condition Information was submitted to the Department in late December. We are looking carefully at the recommendations and will set out our response in due course.

Homelessness: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* rough sleepers and *(b)* homeless people there were in Torbay constituency in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. [314612]

Mr. Ian Austin: Data on rough sleeping and local housing authorities' activities under homelessness legislation are collected at local authority rather than constituency level. Torbay constituency falls within Torbay unitary authority.

Information on rough sleeping has been collected since 1998. In Torbay in 1998 there were 31 rough sleepers. The last street count in 2007 found nine rough sleepers.

We have reduced rough sleeping by 75 per cent. since 1998. Our national baseline was 1,850 in 1998 and the latest headline figure based on local authority rough sleeper counts was 464 for 2009.

The numbers of households accepted as statutory homeless in Torbay unitary authority in 1997-98 and 2007-08 are 253 and 119 respectively. The number of households accommodated by the Torbay unitary authority in temporary accommodation as at 30 March 1997 is 25 and as at 30 September 2009 is 163.

In 2002, we put stronger legislation in place by ensuring that more vulnerable people who face homelessness are provided with help and accommodation by extending the categories of people who have a 'priority need for accommodation" under the homelessness legislation—hence why more people were placed in temporary accommodation.

We know we need to do more to help people into settled homes. That's why our strategy includes the challenging target of halving the number of people living in temporary accommodation to 50,500 by 2010.

We have allocated a total of £220 million to local authorities and voluntary organisations over the three years 2008-09 to 2010-11 to support their strategies for tackling and preventing homelessness in their area.

The Government continue to demonstrate a long-term commitment to affordable housing, which is why between June and November we approved more than £2.4 billion towards 41,000 new affordable homes in England. Of this funding over £3 million has been allocated to schemes for Torbay.

This includes the largest council house-building programme for nearly two decades and funding for housing associations to build more homes for affordable sale or rent, and thousands of first time buyers have also managed to get a foothold on the property ladder thanks to our homebuy schemes.

Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* the Homes and Communities Agency, *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency Academy and *(c)* the Tenant Services Authority spent on (i) advertising and (ii) marketing in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10 to date; and how much has been budgeted for such expenditure in 2009-10. [316431]

John Healey: The following table provides information on advertising and marketing spend by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), the Homes and Communities Agency Academy and the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) in 2008-09. Full details of spend for 2009-10 will be available once the Annual Report and Accounts are published later this year.

2008-09 spend

£000

	HCA	HCA academy	TSA
Advertising	92	7	5
Marketing	515	62	18

Notes:

1. All figures are subject to rounding.

2. The 2008-09 spend relates to the costs incurred since HCA and TSA's inception on 1 December 2008 and include the one offset up costs of both bodies.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by the *(a)* Finance and Corporate Services, *(b)* Strategy, Performance and Research, *(c)* Investment and Regeneration, *(d)* Land and Development, *(e)* New Ventures and Partnerships and *(f)* Skills and Knowledge division of the Homes and Communities Agency in 2008-09; how much has been budgeted for each division in 2009-10; and what proportion of each figure is attributable to staff costs. [316432]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) was launched on 1 December 2008 but some time passed before its directorates were fully established, and for this reason it is not possible to provide a break-down of costs by division for 2008-09.

For 2009-10, the planned budgets for 2009-10 for these directorates, including how much is attributable to staff costs, is set out as follows:

2009-10 Budgets

£000

	Finance and Corporate Services	Strategy	Investment and Renewal	New Ventures and Partnerships	Academy (Skills and Knowledge)
Total staff costs	9,715	7,463	3,543	7,876	1,771
Other costs[1]	1,477	1,027	770	676	157
Total	11,192	8,490	4,313	8,552	1,928

[1] Includes travel and subsistence, regional training and where applicable, programme fees. Excludes agency-wide costs which cannot be disaggregated, such as accommodation costs and office facilities, IT, legal and records, national training.

Homes and Communities Agency: Loans

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 361W, on Homes and Communities Agency and Tenant Services Authority loans, what rate of interest was applied to loans to staff; and for what reason the loans were made. [316737]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency and Tenant Services Authority staff loans break down as follows:

	Number	£
HCA		
Bicycle loans	2	1,000
Season ticket loans	91	179,429.03
Total		180,429.03
TSA		
Car loans	4	41,244
Season ticket loans	55	110,043
Salary advances	8	9,640
Total		160,927

The season tickets, bicycle loans and salary advances are interest free and are to be repaid within 12 months of receipt.

The interest rate for the car loans which are available to those designated as an "essential user" varies according to the five years National Loan Funds rate which is compounded half yearly and converted into the annual percentage rate before being fixed for the term of the loan. The maximum term for car loans is five years.

Housing Associations: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing associations have been assigned to grade *(a)* 3 and *(b)* 4 following a Tenant Services Authority review of their financial position; and if he will make a statement. [316806]

John Healey: At present the Tenant Services Authority has two organisations whose judgment level (J) for viability is graded at J3. None are currently graded at J4.

Housing: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much his Department plans to spend on improving the supply and quality of housing in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12 in (i) cash terms and (ii) 2008-09 prices; [316807]

(2) how much his Department spent against its Objective 4 to deliver a better balance between housing supply and demand *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* in 2009-10 prices in each of the last five years. [316810]

John Healey: Information on departmental plans to spend on improving the supply and quality of housing in 2009-10 and 2010-11 was published in the 2009 departmental annual report, at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/annualreport09

including programmes delivered by the Homes and Communities Agency. Although given timing of publication the 2009 report was not able to reflect budget changes made to support the £1.5 billion Housing Pledge covering 2009-11 announced in Building Britain's Future on 29 June 2009, planned spending figures resulting from the Housing Pledge were subsequently specifically identified in the Homes and Communities Agency's corporate plan 2009-11 (see section on Housing Pledge in table 3 on page 28) published in September 2009, at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/publications

For conversion to 2008-09 prices, Government use the GDP deflator to allow for the effects of changes in prices. This can be found on HM Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_gdp_index.htm

Plans on spending on the supply and quality of housing for 2011-12 will be determined through the next spending review.

Figures for departmental spending on housing supply and demand for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, are shown in each of the annual departmental reports covering those years. The 2008 departmental annual report provided data on 2007-08 spend on public service agreement target 5 (to achieve a better balance between housing availability and the demand for housing) on housing supply. In line with Treasury guidance, 2008 was the last report on public service agreements which had an end date later than 2008 but were subsumed within our CSR07 public service agreements and departmental strategic objectives. The 2008-09 departmental annual report showed forecast out-turn spend figures for 2008-09 against the new departmental strategic objective on improving the supply and quality of housing.

Expenditure can be converted to 2009-10 prices using the GDP deflator as published by HMT. This deflator is calculated from ONS data for seasonally adjusted current and constant price GDP for years up to 2008-09. The 2009-10 deflator is derived from HM Treasury forecasts for GDP deflator increases at the pre-Budget report 2009.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average Homes and Communities Agency grant per unit was for a new *(a)* affordable home and *(b)* home for social rent in each region in (i) each of the last three years and (ii) 2009-10 to date. [316812]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Member for Dudley, North (Mr. Austin) on 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 495W.

The following table shows the average grant per unit for social rent and low cost home ownership for 2009-10 to end September 2009 for each region.

£

	Social rent	*Intermediate housing*
East Midlands	39,325	24,408
Eastern	43,638	29,491
London	106,618	45,633
North East	44,035	19,444
North West	57,193	33,211
South East	53,203	32,017
South West	47,526	28,980
West Midlands	52,133	27,243
Yorkshire and Humberside	52,505	25,585

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency.

Housing: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by his Department on the English House Condition Survey in 2008-09. [316816]

John Healey: Expenditure on the English Housing Survey in 2008-09 was £4,737,821 which includes the cost of household interviews, surveyor training, property inspections and the Department's expenditure on the Survey.

Further information about the EHCS, including annual reports, can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/ehcs

Further information about the EHS can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/englishhousingsurvey

Land Use: Agriculture

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the area of farmland of grade *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2, *(c)* 3a, *(d)* 3b, *(e)* 4 and *(f)* 5 taken for development in each of the last five years. [317138]

Mr. Ian Austin: Annual information on the estimated area of agricultural land in hectares changing to a developed use in England for the most recent five years available is given in the following table:

	Hectares
2003	5,990
2004	2,690
2005	4,160
2006	2,950
2007	2,760

Information on how much of the above changes were from each grade of agricultural land could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Local Government Finance: Barnet

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1129W, on local government: Barnet, if he will place in the Library a copy of the final report on the pilot study. [317600]

Barbara Follett: The London borough of Barnet has received an evaluation of its Behaviour Change Pilot Projects and is considering publishing the findings. As the pilot projects were directly commissioned by the London borough of Barnet, a decision on whether to publish a report rests with the council.

Local Government: East of England

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse has been of the structural review of local government in Norfolk, Suffolk and Devon. [316214]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not hold information about the costs incurred by local authorities of participating in the Boundary Committee's structural reviews in Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk. In the normal course of their business, local authorities respond to many consultation exercises and requests for information, and consequently, budget for this as part of their business planning.

The Boundary Committee estimate of their total costs, to date, of the three structural reviews is over £1.4 million.

Within the Department, there are currently some 10 full time-equivalent staff working on the structure of local government including work on unitary council restructuring—supporting those new unitaries that were created on 1 April 2009 and taking forward the reviews in Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk—and on improving the operation of two-tier local government. The anticipated expenditure in 2009-10 is some £590,000.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to respond to the letter of 5 January 2010 from the hon. Member for Billericay on his constituent Mr. M. Beiley. [317547]

Barbara Follett: A reply was sent to this letter on 9 February 2010.

Mobile Homes Act 1983

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will begin the proposed consultation on reforms to the Mobile Homes Act 1983 within the next two months. [317279]

Mr. Ian Austin: We remain committed to introducing reforms that improve transparency in relation to the Mobile Homes Act 1983. We intend to consult on initial proposals with key stakeholder groups in April before carrying out a public consultation.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on publicising the *(a)* Mortgage Rescue Scheme and *(b)* Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme. [316747]

John Healey: No money has been spent specifically on advertising MRS and HMS.

In September 2009, the Government launched a national campaign to help struggling homeowners take control of their finances and make the most of the support available for them to avoid repossessions and stay in their homes. Press, radio, online and billboard advertisements point people to an advice line and a new website illustrating the practical steps they can take to resolve their mortgage repayment worries, as well as contacts for the wide range of support available, including targeted schemes such as Mortgage Rescue and Homeowners Mortgage Support.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households received an offer on their property under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme in each local authority area in each of the last 12 months; and how many such offers were subsequently accepted by the homeowner. [316821]

John Healey: We have acted rapidly to put in place a range of help and support for households struggling with their mortgage at every stage, and launched a campaign to ensure households have clear information about the help available.

Mortgage rescue scheme summary monitoring statistics are published on a quarterly basis on the Department's website. Figures can be accessed using the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics

Quarterly figures reported by local authorities from January to December 2009 are provided in a table which has been placed in the Library.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Mortgage Rescue Scheme monitoring statistics published by his Department on 12 November 2009, how many of the 92 offers accepted under the scheme have been completed. [316943]

John Healey: Ninety two.

New Deal for Communities

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent by the New Deal for Communities programme since its inception; and what estimate he has made of the number of people assisted by the programme. [317910][1]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Between 2000-01 and 2007-08 (the last year for which audited accounts are available) NDC Partnerships reported that they have spent £1,559 million in grant funding. The latest figures available estimate that there were 797,100 people living in NDC areas in 2007.

Note:

Population figures from: Sheffield Hallam University's Centre for Regional and Economic and Social Research.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the merits of extending the current empty property rate relief scheme beyond April 2010. [317078]

Barbara Follett: An impact assessment will be published shortly alongside the statutory instrument that will extend the empty property rate relief exemption threshold.

Our reforms to empty property relief are principled and right for the long-term. They provide a strong incentive on owners to bring empty property back into use, helping to improve access to premises for businesses and so to exert a downward pressure on commercial rents.

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[1] *[Official Report, 12 March 2010, Vol. 507, c. 14MC.]*

However, we provided owners with real help to manage short-term pressures in a difficult property market by exempting all empty properties with rateable values up to £15,000 from business rates in 2009-10.

We have listened to the continued concerns of owners and we are extending the temporary measure for a further 12 months—to cover the whole of 2010-11—and we are uprating the threshold to £18,000 in line with the general movement of property values at revaluation.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much empty property rate relief has cost the Exchequer since 2007; [317112]

(2) how much empty property rate relief has cost the Exchequer since April 2009. [317113]

Barbara Follett: The amounts of empty property relief granted in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 and the amount forecast to be granted in 2009-10 are as follows:

Empty property relief

	£ million
2006-07	1,362
2007-08	1,294
2008-09	487
2009-10	570

Data are as reported to Communities and Local Government by all billing authorities in England on the annual National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) returns.

The figures given are the net empty property relief granted in that year irrespective of the year to which the empty property relief related. It can also include the repayment of non-domestic rates where empty property relief should have been granted in previous years but was not.

In 2008-09, the rules governing empty and partly occupied property relief were reformed by the Rating (Empty Properties) Act 2007 and further reforms were introduced for 2009-10.

Our reforms to empty property relief are principled and right for the long-term. They provide a strong incentive on owners to bring empty property back into use, helping to improve access to premises for businesses and so to exert a downward pressure on commercial rents.

However, we provided owners with real help to manage short-term pressures in a difficult property market by exempting all empty properties with rateable values up to £15,000 from business rates in 2009-10.

We have listened to the continued concerns of owners and we are extending the temporary measure for a further 12 months—to cover the whole of 2010-11—and we are uprating the threshold to £18,000 in line with the general movement of property values at revaluation.

Private Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of vulnerable people in each vulnerability group who lived in decent private sector homes in each year since 2002. [316811]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) gave him on 27 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 789W.

Private Rented Housing: Homelessness

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many private sector properties were leased by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations in order to house homeless households in 2008-09. [315678]

Mr. Ian Austin: Use of accommodation with shared facilities has declined over recent years, largely through reduced bed and breakfast usage. Within the last 10 years, bed and breakfast style accommodation use peaked during 2002, when 16 per cent. of households were in this form of temporary accommodation, compared to 4 per cent. at the end of March 2009. The proportion of self-contained accommodation has increased over this period; in particular private sector accommodation leased short-term by local authorities or registered social landlords, which rose from under 30 per cent. during 2002 to 59 per cent. at the end of March 2009. On 30 March 2009, there were 37,450 households in private sector temporary accommodation leased short-term by local authorities and registered social landlords, of which 25,750 households were in accommodation leased by a local authority and 11,700 households were in accommodation leased or managed by a registered social landlord.

Safer Stronger Communities Fund

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on *(a)* programmes, *(b)* staffing, *(c)* administration and *(d)* publicity by the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund; and what estimate he has made of the number of people assisted by the fund. [317841]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Safer and Stronger Communities Fund is allocated to local authorities through area-based grant. For the current spending period, £51.967 million was allocated in 2008-09 and £30.909 million in 2009-10, with an indicative allocation of £4.893 million in 2010-11. The SSCF is a non ring-fenced fund and local authorities have flexibility over how it is spent. It is therefore not possible to break down spend into programmes, staffing, administration and publicity.

Supporting People Programme

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on *(a)* staffing, *(b)* administration and *(c)* publicity for the Supporting People programme. [317212]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government provide local authorities with administration grant as a contribution towards the costs of managing the programme at a local level but do not require authorities to provide details of actual expenditure on staffing, administration or publicity for the Supporting People programme.

It is possible that some local authorities do not record these sorts of expenditure for their Supporting People grants specifically. Communities and Local Government would not be able to provide this information without a disproportionate amount of effort, and for those local authorities who do not record this type of expenditure even a disproportionate amount of effort would not yield any results.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on the Supporting People programme; and how many people have received assistance under the programme since its inception. [317213]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is as follows:

Supporting People household unit and spend information

Financial year	*2003-04*[1]	*2004-05*[1]	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Annual spend (£)	1,814,096,410	1,844,997,200	1,681,607,275	1,642,961,644	1,627,573,423	1,640,497,000
Household unit available	1,232,889	927,774	1,038,595	1,064,178	1,068,934	1,083,406

The household unit figures provided represent a snapshot of the capacity of Supporting People services (measured in households) at a particular point in time; in this instance as at 31 March each year, to correspond with the collection of spend data. It should be noted that household unit information is not representative of the number of households who have actually received support during the quarter or year.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on *(a)* staffing, *(b)* administration and *(c)* publicity for the Working Neighbourhoods Fund. [317211]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As a locally managed fund, central Government do not hold this information.

£1.52 billion has been allocated to the Working Neighbourhoods Fund for the period 2008-11. It is allocated to local authorities with high rates of worklessness, thereby giving them the flexibility to respond to local circumstances when tackling worklessness and promoting enterprise.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on the Working Neighbourhoods Fund; and how many people have received assistance from the funds. [317214]

Ms Rosie Winterton: £1.52 billion has been allocated to the Working Neighbourhoods Fund for the period 2008-11. It is allocated to local authorities with high rates of worklessness, thereby giving them the flexibility to respond to local circumstances when tackling worklessness and promoting enterprise.

As a locally managed fund, central Government do not hold information on the number of people assisted.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: East Sussex

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small and medium-sized businesses in *(a)* Lewes constituency and *(b)* East Sussex are employing apprentices. [315760]

Kevin Brennan: Record numbers of people are taking up and achieving an apprenticeship. Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts in Lewes parliamentary constituency, East Sussex and Brighton and Hove local authorities.

Table 1. Apprenticeship starts, Lewes parliamentary constituency, East Sussex and Brighton and Hove local authorities (2003/04 to 2008/09)

	2003/04	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*
Lewes parliamentary constituency	240	240	230	210	280	280
East Sussex local authority	1,500	1,500	1,400	1,400	1,800	2,000
Brighton and Hove local authority	600	700	700	600	700	800

Notes:
1. Parliamentary constituency volumes are rounded to the nearest 10. Local authority figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Parliamentary constituency and local authority are based upon the home postcode of the learner.
3. Information is not currently available on the size of the employer for apprentices. For the 2009/10 academic year, this information will become available on the ILR when a unique employer identifier will have to be provided by all employers of apprentices.
Source:
WBL/ER Individualised Learner Record

We can provide an estimate of the size of employers, nationally, that offer and have recruited apprentices from the National Employers Skills Survey (NESS). These data are based on repeated surveys of up to 79,000 employers across all business sectors in England. Table 2 shows information from the published 2007 National Employer Skills survey[1] on the number of organisations that had any staff undertaking an apprenticeship in the 12 months prior to interview, by size of employer.

Table 2: Percentage of employers that had any staff undertaking an apprenticeship over the previous 12 months (NESS 2007)

	Percentage
All employers	8
Number of employees of employer	
2-4	5
5-24	10
25-99	15
100-199	18
200-499	24
500+	33

[1] http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/nat-nessurvey2007mainreport-may08.pdf accessed on 4 February 2010

Apprentices: Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many modern apprenticeships have been started in Feltham and Heston constituency since 1997. [316492]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts in Feltham and Heston parliamentary constituency from 2003/04 onwards, the earliest year for which comparable data are available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts for Feltham and Heston parliamentary constituency, 2003/04 to 2008/09

Academic year	*Number of starts*
2003/04	280
2004/05	260
2005/06	230
2006/07	370
2007/08	350
2008/09	360

Notes:
1. Figures for Feltham and Heston parliamentary constituency are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures are based upon home postcode of the learner.
3. Figures include apprenticeship, advanced apprenticeships and higher level apprenticeships.
Source:
Individualised Learner Record.

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts by parliamentary constituency, local authority, Government office region and for England is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 17 December, and re-issued on 21 January to include provisional national estimates of the number of apprenticeship starts and achievements in the first quarter of 2009/10:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrdec09

Apprentices: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many modern apprenticeships have been started in Hemsworth since 1997. [316614]

Kevin Brennan: The following table 1 shows the number of Apprenticeship starts in Hemsworth parliamentary constituency from 2003/04 onwards, the earliest year for which comparable data is available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts for Hemsworth parliamentary constituency, 2003/04 to 2008/09

Academic year	*Number of starts*
2003/04	300
2004/05	300
2005/06	300
2006/07	360
2007/08	300
2008/09	450

Notes:
1. Figures for Hemsworth parliamentary constituency are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures are based upon home postcode of the learner.
3. Figures include Apprenticeship, Advanced Apprenticeships and Higher Level Apprenticeships.
Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of Apprenticeship starts by parliamentary constituency, local authority, government office region and for England is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 17 December, and re-issued on 21 January to include provisional national estimates of the number of apprenticeship starts and achievements in the first quarter of 2009/10:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrdec09

Bankruptcy: Sussex

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many bankruptcies of *(a)* individuals in each age group resident in and *(b)* businesses based in (i) Lewes constituency and (ii) East Sussex there were in each of the last five years. [317029]

Ian Lucas: Figures for bankrupts in East Sussex and Lewes constituency by age group for the last five years are shown in Tables 1 and 2 below.

Table 1: Bankruptcies in Lewes[1]

	Age group[2]						
	Under 25	*25-34*	*35-44*	*45-54*	*55-64*	*65+*	*Unknown*
2004	2	17	18	17	6	0	4
2005	7	22	17	19	12	3	4
2006	6	28	39	23	10	4	9
2007	4	22	24	29	15	6	11
2008	1	13	25	16	10	3	16

[1] Where bankrupt has provided a valid postcode (from 94.5 per cent. in 2004 to 96.9 per cent. in 2008).
[2] Where bankrupt has provided a valid date of birth (from 92.3 per cent. in 2004 to 93.4 per cent. in 2008).

Table 2: Bankruptcies in East Sussex[1]

	Age group[2]						
	Under 25	*25-34*	*35-44*	*45-54*	*55-64*	*65+*	*Unknown*
2004	[illegible]	107	126	102	52	9	41
2005	32	152	180	125	80	22	53
2006	43	179	238	143	93	26	41
2007	27	158	217	141	102	34	53
2008	26	140	194	152	64	36	79

[1] Where bankrupt has provided a valid postcode (from 94.5 per cent. in 2004 to 96.9 per cent. in 2008).
[2] Where bankrupt has provided a valid date of birth (from 92.3 per cent. in 2004 to 93.4 per cent. in 2008).

Self-employed traders may be declared bankrupt (or enter into an individual voluntary arrangement [IVA]), however, registered companies are the subject of liquidation (compulsory liquidation or creditors voluntary liquidation (CVL)).

Table 3 shows the number of self employed traders who were declared bankrupt in each of the last five years.

Table 3: Bankruptcies amongst sole traders in Lewes and East Sussex

	Area[1]	
Year[2]	*Lewes*	*East Sussex*
2004	22	132
2005	14	144
2006	33	154
2007	20	140
2008	28	138

[1] Where bankrupt has provided a valid postcode (from 94.5 per cent. in 2004 to 96.9 per cent. in 2008).
[2] Figures from October 2006 are compiled on a different basis and are not comparable to earlier figures.

Regional figures for 2009 are not currently available for bankruptcies, as they are compiled on an annual basis. They should be available later in 2010.

Statistics covering corporate insolvencies, including liquidation, are not currently available at a sub-national level within England and Wales.

Business: Government Assistance

David Mundell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications *(a)* in total and *(b)* from businesses registered in Scotland for loans under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme have been (i) made and (ii) granted. [315310]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, as of 27 January 2010, over £1.13 billion of eligible applications from over 10,000 businesses have been granted, are being processed or assessed. Of these, 7,792 businesses have been offered loans totalling £794.71 million.

In Scotland, £86.92 million of eligible applications from 686 businesses have been granted, are being processed or assessed. Of these, 544 businesses have been offered loans totalling £70.69 million.

Businesses may apply for a loan from any of the participating lenders who will assess which form of lending, including the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, is most appropriate. We do not hold figures for those businesses which are instead offered a normal commercial loan, or are rejected for failing to meet the lenders' normal commercial criteria.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department and its predecessors have taken to support small businesses in Hemsworth since 1997. [316613]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since 1997 the Government have implemented a wide range of measures to support business, including small and medium-sized businesses. Statistical information on these measures is not available at constituency level. Statistical information has been provided at the Wakefield local authority level where available. The principal measures are as follows.

In 1998, the Government set up the Regional Development Agency, Yorkshire Forward, to deliver a joined-up approach to economic development in the region. In support of its objective of promoting business efficiency, investment and competitiveness Yorkshire Forward has provided grants for businesses through the Selective Finance for Investment (SFI) scheme, which started in April 2004, and its successor the Grants for Business Investment (GBI) scheme, which started in October 2008. Yorkshire Forward has made 27 SFI and GBI grant offers to businesses in Wakefield totalling £3.2 million, creating or safeguarding 355 jobs. Yorkshire Forward has also provided grants to support research and development by small and medium sized businesses, through the SMART scheme and its successor, the Grants for Research and Development scheme. Since 2000, Yorkshire Forward has offered 25 research and development grants totalling £1.5 million to small and medium sized businesses in Wakefield.

Since 2004, Business Link Yorkshire has been the single contact point for all publicly funded support available to businesses in Yorkshire and The Humber. This has made it easier for businesses to access information, advice and support on issues including business regulation, best practice, marketing, innovation, financial support and help with exporting. For example in 2009/10 to date, Business Link Yorkshire has helped 2,578 businesses in the Wakefield area and 913 individuals thinking of starting a business. As part of the Government's Real Help Now package we are providing more help for businesses to survive during the current economic conditions. Since October 2008 this has included a free Business Link health check which can be a useful starting point for identifying further business support tailored to the needs of individual companies. To date Business Link Yorkshire has arranged 548 health checks for small and medium sized businesses in Wakefield. In addition, the Yorkshire Forward funded Financial Health Check, which offers a grant of £2,000 for accountants to carry out a full review, has benefited 63 businesses in Wakefield.

Small and medium sized manufacturing businesses in Wakefield can also benefit from the Yorkshire and Humber Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS), which was set up by BERR in 2002 to provide practical hands-on support to business in all aspects of manufacturing. In 2009 the Yorkshire and Humber MAS carried out over 1,000 manufacturing reviews and over 340 improvement projects, creating or safeguarding over 3,100 jobs, with an estimated total potential increase in GVA of £30.3 million. Figures at local level are not available.

Under the European Regional Development Funded Objective 2 programme between 2000 and 2008 over £93 million was provided to support small and medium enterprises in the Objective 2 areas in Yorkshire and the Humber, which included Wakefield. Figures at local level are not available.

Details of the wide range of Government funded support for business available are on the Real Help Now website

www.realhelpnow.gov.uk

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the criteria are for the award of a loan to a company under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme. [316783]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are three main criteria for a business being offered an EFG loan application:

The business meeting the lender's normal commercial criteria in relation to the viability of the business and serviceability of the loan. This judgment will vary according to the lender concerned.

The lender determining that use of EFG, rather than a normal commercial loan, is necessary because of no or insufficient security available on the part of the business.

The business meeting the basic EFG eligibility criteria

Each lender has access to the EFG web portal through which they administer the EFG eligibility criteria. The main EFG eligibility criteria, with respect to the size of loan, purpose of loan, turnover size, business sector etc. is detailed on the BIS website:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/enterprise/finance/efc/page37607.html

Business: Snow and Ice

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to business in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* the UK of the adverse weather conditions of December 2009 and January 2010. [314221]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are no official estimates at this early stage of local, regional or national cost to business as a result of the adverse weather but there are indications that some businesses lost trade due to customers being unable to travel or lost output due to staff being unable to attend work. We will continue to monitor the situation and estimates as these become available.

Cerebrospinal: Multiple Sclerosis

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will *(a)* commission and *(b)* evaluate research into the relationship between chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency and multiple sclerosis. [317013]

Mr. Lammy: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body which receives its grant in aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The MRC spent £3.4 million on research into multiple sclerosis in 2008-09, but is not currently funding any research specifically into chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency (CCSVI).

The MRC provides funding for research through a range of grants and personal awards to scientists in universities, medical schools and other research institutes but does not normally commission research to address specific questions.

Applications are generally submitted by the scientific community in 'response mode' and the MRC always welcomes high quality applications for support into any aspect of human health. The primary considerations in funding decisions are research excellence and importance to health; however, high quality proposals in areas of particular strategic importance may be given priority in competition for funds.

The MRC provides opportunities for additional clinical research training fellowships through collaborations with Royal Colleges and charity funders including the MRC/Multiple Sclerosis Society Clinical Research Training Fellowships. One fellowship per year is available under this scheme, aimed at researchers who are involved in treating patients and who wish to pursue research into understanding and treatment of multiple sclerosis.

Details of MRC's currently funded research can be found in the MRC research portfolio which is accessible on the MRC website at:

http://www.mrc.ac.uk/ResearchPortfolio/index.htm

Companies: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many mergers of companies have taken place in Birmingham in each of the last three years. [312775]

Kevin Brennan: Information relating to mergers is not collected at this level of detail. The Office of National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for collecting information involving mergers and acquisitions by UK companies abroad and in the UK, and mergers and acquisitions by foreign companies in the UK. The ONS publishes a quarterly statistical bulletin and a Tri-annual Mini review of mergers and acquisitions.

Its latest Quarterly Bulletin (3rd Quarter 2009) can be found at the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/ma1209.pdf

and its last Tri-annual Mini review published in 2008 can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_commerce/2008-Mini-Triennial-M-A.pdf

Construction: Government Assistance

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many construction companies in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point have received Government assistance in the last three years. [316727]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 10 February 2010]:* Business Link East, which is managed by the East of England Development Agency, has supported *(a)* 2,623 construction companies in Essex and *(b)* 136 construction companies in Castle Point in the last three years.

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to take steps to increase the level of liquidity in the construction industry; and if he will make a statement. [316728]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 10 February 2010]:* The Government have been increasing liquidity in construction by helping smaller and medium-sized firms, which dominate the industry, through Real Help for Business. This package of measures aims to facilitate bank lending to smaller and medium-sized firms and will continue to do so into the financial year 2010-11. In addition, in the December 2009 Pre-Budget Report the Government announced the creation of a Growth Capital Fund that will target SMEs for which traditional bank finance is either inappropriate or unavailable.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff in his Department and its agencies *(a)* have the status of embedded communicators and *(b)* are members of the Government Communications Network but are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book. [315168]

Mr. McFadden: At the most recent assessment of those embedded, in October 2009, there were 18 embedded communicators in BIS. Embedded communicators are defined as staff employed primarily in a communications role based in policy or delivery units outside of the central communications function.

It is not possible to provide the number of embedded communicators who are members of the Government Communications Network (GCN) but not listed in the White Book as the Department does not hold GCN membership data.

I have approached the Chief Executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 12 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 29 January 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking how many staff (a) have the status of embedded communicators and (b) are members of the Government Communications Network but are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book.

a) The National Measurement Office, following a recent restructure, has one part time member of staff (0.6 FTE) who we believe would be regarded as an "embedded communicator" in that she is employed primarily in a communications role based in the enforcement team of the Agency. This role is based outside of the central communications team.

b) The National Measurement Office has no staff who are members of the Government Communications Network.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 12 February 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 29 January 2010, UIN 315168 to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House has five staff who are members of the Government Communication Network, and classed as Government communicators. The two members with responsibility for dealing with press enquiries are listed in the Central Office of Information White Book, the other three are not.

Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 2 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 29 January 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office does not have any staff who have the status of embedded communicators.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 18 February 2010:

The Minister of State, for the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has asked me to reply to your question how many staff in his Department and its agencies (a) have the status of embedded communicators and (b) are members of the Government Communications Network but are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book.

The Insolvency Service has 7 embedded communicators, 2 of whom are not direct employees but are Agency staff. There are no staff that are members of the Government Communications Network but are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book.

Departmental Official Hospitality

John Mason: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many receptions he has hosted for representatives of print and broadcast media since 3 October 2008; and how many he plans to host in 2010. [316839]

Mr. Timms: I have not hosted any such receptions. However, since October 2008:

My Noble Friend, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting hosted a digital Britain summit in April 2009 at the British Library, drawing attendees from the print, broadcast and technology communities. The key note speech was given by the Prime Minister.

My right hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Higher Education and Intellectual Property hosted a lunch with educational journalists in November 2008.

There are no current plans to host any such receptions in 2010.

Departmental Video Conferencing

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost was of the technical support team required to run the videoconferencing and telepresence facilities in Kingsgate House in the last 12 months. [304483]

Mr. McFadden: Technical support for the videoconferencing and telepresence facilities is currently provided to the Department via a shared services agreement with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The costs for ICT and Information Management services are in fact broken down in a way that relates to input categories, for example staff costs, licences, etc rather than products that are supported.

However, for 2009-10 the shared services charges identified against videoconferencing and telepresence from DCSF will be £37,700 and will cover overall delivery of the services and support.

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of radio microphones and other programme-making and special events technologies which will need to be replaced with new equipment as a consequence of the clearance of the digital dividend spectrum; and if he will make a statement. [317612]

Mr. Timms: We have not estimated the proportion of microphones (both channel 69 and interleaved spectrum) or other PMSE equipment which will be affected by the clearance.

However, Ofcom have estimated that 95 per cent. of all radio microphones tune to channel 69 and will therefore be affected by the clearance.

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to announce his decision on the *(a)* criteria for compensation eligibility and *(b)* allocation of funding to be provided to those in the programme-making and special events sector who are affected by the clearance of the digital dividend spectrum. [317613]

Mr. Timms: Ofcom are re-evaluating their initial assumptions and eligibility criteria in light of responses to their second consultation on this issue. When this work is completed, Government will agree with Ofcom an appropriate funding allocation.

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of jobs which depend *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly on the use of radio microphones and other programme-making and special events technologies. [317614]

Mr. Timms: No such estimates have been made. However, the Department is aware of the contribution that the programme-making and special events (PMSE) industry makes to the UK economy, and is carefully considering how they will be relocated from channel 69 to channel 38.

Employment Agencies: EU Law

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration his Department has given to the effect on the nature of ad hoc assignments of temporary workers of the Agency Worker Regulations. [316970]

Mr. McFadden: We carefully considered representations from stakeholders on the issue of ad hoc assignments. However, we concluded that it would be wrong for agency workers to be deprived of equal treatment rights just because they do not comply with 'standard' work patterns, particularly since irregular agency assignments are prevalent in lower-paid sectors. We were also concerned about the risk of any special provision on the point would further complicate the regulations, and could be exploited by the unscrupulous in order to deprive workers of equal treatment rights.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has *(a)* sought and *(b)* received from representatives of the agency work industry on the drafting of the guidance to the Agency Worker Regulations. [316971]

Mr. McFadden: The Agency Workers Regulations 2010 were laid before Parliament on 21 January 2010, coming into force on 1 October 2011. Accompanying guidance will be drawn up and published in advance of the regulations coming into force. The important role this guidance will play has been one of the subjects discussed with not only representatives of the agency work industry but also other stakeholders during recent consultations preceding the laying of the regulations. We will of course wish to have further discussions with interested parties on the drafting of this guidance in due course.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has further to consult representatives of the agency work industry prior to the implementation of the Agency Worker Regulations. [316972]

Mr. McFadden: The last year saw an intensive process of consultation on the Government's proposals to implement the European Agency Workers Directive. There were more than 300 responses to the original consultation on policy proposals and almost 100 responses to the second on the draft regulations. In addition, Ministers and officials held frequent meetings with a wide variety of interested parties, including those representing the agency work industry.

Accompanying guidance will be drawn up and published in advance of the regulations coming into force. We will seek the views of representatives of the agency work industry and other interested parties on the drafting of this guidance in due course.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what impact assessment his Department has undertaken of the Agency Worker Regulations in relation to the *(a)* complexity of bonus arrangements, *(b)* cost of tracking ad hoc assignments and *(c)* transferral of indemnity from the end-user to the agency. [316975]

Mr. McFadden: We have addressed these issues in the Government responses to the two consultation exercises on implementation of the Agency Workers Regulations 2010—the relevant documents have been placed in the Libraries of the House and are available on the BIS website. These include a comprehensive impact assessment.

On bonuses, we are aware of the concerns of hirers, in particular the implications of integrating agency workers into appraisal systems for permanent staff. The regulations do not require agency workers to be integrated into these systems—hirers can adopt simpler systems such as existing feedback arrangements that many agencies already have in place. It is also by no means the case that all bonus payments will come within the scope of equal treatment rights—they will not do so, for instance, if not directly attributable to the individual worker's contribution or if they would not have been payable if the same worker had been recruited directly to do the same job (if, say, there is a qualifying period before a bonus is payable). Guidance will address these issues further.

We carefully considered representations from stakeholders on the issue of ad hoc assignments. However, we concluded that it would be wrong for agency workers to be deprived of equal treatment rights just because they do not comply with 'standard' work patterns, particularly since irregular agency assignments are prevalent in lower-paid sectors. We were also concerned about the risk of any special provision on the point would further complicate the regulations, and could be exploited by the unscrupulous in order to deprive workers of equal treatment rights.

We considered that it would be inappropriate for the regulations to make provision on the issue of indemnities since to do so would amount to an inappropriate intervention in private commercial arrangements, and the directive includes no requirements in this area.

Exports: Morocco

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value was of UK exports to Morocco in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [317990]

Ian Lucas: UK exports of goods to Morocco were worth £484 million in 2008 and £299 million in 2009 on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis.

UK exports of services to Morocco were worth £77 million in 2008 on a Balance of Payments basis. Data for 2009 are due to be published at the end of July in the UK Balance of Payments Pink Book.

Exports: Saudi Arabia

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value was of UK exports to Saudi Arabia in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [317989]

Ian Lucas: UK exports of goods to Saudi Arabia were worth £2,191 million in 2008 and £2,334 million in 2009 on a Balance of Payments basis.

UK exports of services to Saudi Arabia were worth £2,633 million in 2008 on a Balance of Payments basis. Data for 2009 are due to be published at the end of July in the UK Balance of Payments Pink Book.

Graduates: Work Experience

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many unique visitors there have been to the *(a)* Graduate Talent Pool and *(b)* Our future, its in our hands website in each month since each was created. [307769]

Mr. Lammy: The Department do not have monthly figures for the number of unique visits to the Graduate Talent Pool website. But the following information is available:

Total unique visitors between 19 April and 8 December to the Employer site were: 55,012

Total unique visitors between 30th June and 8th December to the Graduate site were: 104,403

In addition the figures for total visits to the employer and graduate sites are as follows:

	Employer site	*Graduate site*
1-28 July	6109	—
29 July-1 September	21291	46444
2 September-27 September	15282	44260
28 September-3 November	10305	37982
4 November-1 Devember	9275	30334

The "Our future. Its in our hands" website is owned and managed by the Learning and Skills Council. I have asked the Chief Executive of the Learning and Skills Council to write to the hon. Member separately to provide an answer to that part of the question.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 12 February 2010:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, has asked me to respond to your Parliamentary Question 627 that asked;

"how many unique visitors there have been (a) to the Graduate Talent Pool and (b) Our future, its in our hands websites in each month since each was created."

The following table contains web traffic information for the "In Our Hands" website, from 17 May 2009 to 14 December 2009. Unfortunately, due to the time constraints in which the response is required, further historical data cannot be obtained.

The "In Our hands" website was established in summer 2007 to serve a range of audiences interested in increasing their skill levels. The two main audiences are:

Individuals, who are targeted through marketing communications, and

Businesses, which are encouraged to make the Skills Pledge.

The purpose of the site was to act as a central repository for information relevant to the target audiences listed above. The site was promoted to individuals during key times of the year, summer and early spring, which are key enrolment times for post 16 providers. Since the integration of the Careers Advice Service with the Learning and Skills Council in 2008, the Careers Advice Service website and telephone helpline have become the main call to action in promotional materials targeting individuals.

As part of the Transformational Government strategy, this website has been identified by the Cabinet Office for convergence and closure (reference X1668).

Although the deadline for closure is March 2011, the LSC is aiming to have completed the necessary convergence work by the end of March 2010.

Information aimed at individuals has already been relocated in the Careers Advice Service site, which will subsequently become part of the Adult Advancement and Careers Service, in August 2010. Information and services for Business (i.e. Skills Pledge) will become part of the Business Link website.

Visits trend

Month	*Visits*	*Percentage visits*
January	0	0
February	0	0
March	0	0
April	0	0
May	3,837	5
June	7,895	10
July	13,768	18
August	6,727	9
September	18,068	23
October	16,044	21
November	7,902	10
December	3,738	5
Total	77,979	100.00

Notes:

Time interval (hour, day, etc.)

A one-year report displays monthly time increments. A one-quarter report displays weekly time increments. A one-month report or a one-week report displays daily time increments. A daily report displays hourly time increments. An hour-long interval marked 12:00, for example, includes all activity between 12:00 and 12:59.

Visits

Number of visits to your site during the specified time interval. A visit is a series of actions that begins when a visitor views their first page from the server, and ends when the visitor leaves the site or remains idle beyond the idle-time limit. The default idle-time limit is thirty minutes. This time limit can be changed by the system administrator.

Percentage

Percentage of visits to your site during the specified time interval compared with all visits to our site during the report period.

Higher Education: Finance

Rob Marris: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion on average of the budgets of universities in England was spent on *(a)* teaching undergraduates, *(b)* teaching graduates, *(c)* libraries, *(d)* student services, *(e)* non-sponsored research, *(f)* sponsored research and *(g)* administration in (i) 2000-01, (ii) 2004-05 and (iii) 2008-09. [315957]

Mr. Lammy: The information is not available in the breakdown requested. Information on higher education income and expenditure is collected in the Higher Education Statistics Authority (HESA) Finance Record.

Information is provided in the following table. The information provided is the nearest match to the categories outlined above. The table refers to the expenditure of English higher education institutions rather than budget. Further explanations of how the table is broken down are in the footnotes to the table. Figures for 200[illegible]/09 are not yet available so the most recent academic year is used (2007/08.)

Expenditure of English HEIs, 2000/01,2004/05 and 2007/08

	Percentage
2000/01	
Academic staff costs	25.3
Academic services	7.3
Research grants and contracts	14.1
Staff and student facilities	2.0
Other Admin and central services	10.8
Other	40.4
Total	100.0
2004/05	
Academic staff costs	25.0
Academic services	7.6

Expenditure of English HEIs, 2000/01, 2004/05 and 2007/08

	Percentage
Research grants and contracts	13.5
Staff and student facilities	2.4
Other Admin and central services	11.3
Other	40.2
Total	100.0
2007/08	
Academic staff costs	23.8
Academic services	7.6
Research grants and contracts	13.1
Staff and student facilities	2.6
Other Admin and central services	11.9
Other	41.0
Total	100.0

Notes:

1. 'Academic staff costs' include all departmental academic staff, so this will cover research staff as well as teaching staff.

2 'Academic services' includes money spent on libraries, but also includes costs to HEIs such as central computers, museums, galleries and observatories which are not included in Academic departmental costs.

3. It is not possible to split research expenditure by non-sponsored and sponsored research. 'Research grants and contracts' refers to sponsored research.

4. 'Staff and student facilities' is included within the main administration and central services category, and covers expenditure of facilities such as careers advisory services, accommodation services, health services, athletic and sporting facilities (except maintenance) and creches.

5. 'Other admin and central services' refers to admin and central services other than staff and student facilities.

6. 'Other' refers to all expenditure not included in the table including other academic department staff costs, premises, residences and catering and other expenditure not covered by the categories in the finance record table.

Source:

HESA Resources of Higher Education Institutions, 2000/0[illegible], 2004/05, 2007/08

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the Higher Education Funding Council for England teaching budget was allocated to *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time students in the latest year for which information is available. [317090]

Mr. Lammy: The Funding Council's recurrent grant for teaching in 2009/10 can be split as follows: 77 per cent. for full-time students (including sandwich year out), 16 per cent. for part time and 7 per cent. not allocated according to student numbers. Grant for part-time students is allocated in terms of their full-time equivalence, reflecting their relative level of activity, rather than on a headcount basis.

Higher Education: Overseas Students

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the economy of an increase in the minimum level qualification for which non-EU students may come to the UK for study. [316973]

Kevin Brennan: In a written ministerial statement on 10 February 2010 my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced the conclusions of a joint UKBA/BIS review of tier 4 of the points-based system (student visas). This includes plans to limit the delivery of National Qualifications Framework (NQF) level 3 courses to the new category of highly-trusted sponsor (HTS). UKBA will develop a full impact assessment on the review's recommendations as part of the process of implementation.

Higher Education: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many residents of Salford constituency have attended university in each year since 1997. [317735]

Mr. Lammy: The latest figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency are shown in the table. Figures for 2009/10 academic year will be available in January 2011. Enrolments cover students on all years of study.

Enrolments[1] from Salford Parliamentary constituency[2] UK higher education institutions academic years 1997/98 to 2008/09

Academic year	*Enrolments*
1997/1998	1,070
1998/1999	1.135
1999/2000	1.115
2000/2001	1.145
2001/2002	1.275
2002/2003	1.355
2003/2004	1.475
2004/2005	1.525
2005/2006	1.610
2006/2007	1.510
2007/2008	1.415
2008/2009	1.545

[1] Covers enrolments on all modes and levels of study.

[2] The table does not include enrolments where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

Notes:

Figures are based on a snapshot as at 1 December to maintain consistency across the time series and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what proportion of 18 to 22 year olds exclusively resident in Stroud constituency were studying at university in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available; [317084]

(2) what proportion of 18 year olds in Stroud constituency participated in higher education in 2008-09. [317085]

Mr. Lammy: The Department does not collect data on the number of residents in a particular constituency who are not in higher education, which would be necessary to calculate a proportion. It is, therefore, not possible to calculate the proportion of 18 to 22 year olds resident in Stroud constituency who were studying at university. The numbers of 18 to 22 year old enrolments at UK Higher Education Institutions, from Stroud Parliamentary Constituency, are provided as an alternative in the table.

18 to 22 year old enrolments[1] from Stroud Parliamentary Constituency[2], UK higher education institutions academic years 1997/98 and 2008/09

Age	*1997/98*	*2008/09*
18	275	310
19	370	485
20	370	520
21	275	320
22	125	170

18 to 22 year old enrolments[1] from Stroud Parliamentary Constituency[2], UK higher education institutions academic years 1997/98 and 2008/09

Age	*1997/98*	*2008/09*
Total	1,415	1,805

[1] Covers undergraduate and postgraduate enrolments to full-time and part-time courses.

[2] The table does not include enrolments where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

Notes

Figures are based on snapshot as at 1 December to maintain consistency across academic years and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students enrolled on their first full-time degree course in the latest year for which figures are available. [317338]

Mr. Lammy: Of the 423,455 full-time degree entrants to UK higher education institutions, 6,815 listed a degree as their highest qualification on entry to their 2008-09 degree. This leaves 416,640 entrants who had other qualifications listed. However, some entrants may have previously completed a degree, followed by a postgraduate course. These entrants would not be picked up as their highest qualification on entry would be listed as a postgraduate course, although they had previously studied a degree.

Holiday Leave: Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many residents of Feltham and Heston constituency qualify for paid leave entitlements. [316690]

Mr. McFadden: All workers resident in Feltham and Heston qualify for paid annual leave entitlements. The statutory minimum as set out in the working time regulations is at least 5.6 weeks.

Numbers of workers resident in Feltham and Heston are not available, however, there were a total of 53,400 employees who worked in Feltham and Heston (but did not necessarily live there) in 2008, who would qualify for paid annual leave entitlement.

Maternity Leave: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what percentage of women resident in Hemsworth have taken 26 weeks maternity leave since 1997. [316609]

Mr. McFadden: The most recent estimates of take-up of maternity leave are based on the DWP "Maternity Rights and Mothers' employment decisions in Britain; Survey of Mothers" (2007). In 2006, when mothers included in the study went on maternity leave, the statutory entitlement to ordinary maternity leave (OML) was 26 weeks, while mothers who had worked for their employer for a qualifying period of 26 weeks were also entitled to additional maternity leave (AML) of 26 weeks.

For mothers taking maternity leave in 2006:

84 per cent. took 26 weeks or more maternity leave;

35 per cent. took exactly 26 weeks maternity leave;

46 per cent. of mothers took between 27 and 52 weeks and only 3 per cent. were off for more than 52 weeks; and

16 per cent. of mothers took less than the statutory minimum entitlement (i.e. 26 weeks in 2006).

The Department does not collect data on take-up of maternity and paternity leave at constituency level.

Minimum Wage

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people who have been paid at the national minimum wage rate in the last two years. [316363]

Mr. McFadden: Due to rounding in the conversion of payroll data into hourly wage rates in the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) it is likely that a sizeable number of employees earning the NMW are reported in the survey to have a wage rate just above or below this level. This may mean that the estimated number of employees earning exactly at the NMW rate differs from the actual number. In addition, small sample sizes in ASHE for 16 to 17 and 18 to 21-year-olds means the number of job-holders earning a specific wage rate cannot be inferred with sufficient certainty. For these reasons BIS has provided estimates for the number of employees earning a wage at or below the NMW in the UK rather than those paid exactly at the NMW.

This analysis of the 2009 ASHE indicates that 788,000 employees earned a wage at or below the national minimum wage (NMW) rate in April 2009. The corresponding figure from analysis of the 2008 ASHE is 834,000 employees.

The estimates include the number of jobs paid below the NMW. These cannot be taken as estimates of underpayment as there are legitimate exemptions in the legislation including some apprentices and those receiving accommodation from their employer.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people aged between 16 and 24 years in *(a)* Hemsworth and *(b)* Wakefield have been paid at the rate of the minimum wage or above since its introduction. [316711]

Mr. McFadden: Data for earnings is not available at the constituency level because of small sample sizes at this level in the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE).

BIS analysis of the most recent ASHE indicates that a total of 291,000 employees in the Yorkshire and Humber region aged between 16 and 24 years earned a wage rate at or above the level of the National Minimum Wage (NMW) in April 2009.

Minimum Wage: Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of those resident in Feltham and Heston constituency have been paid at the national minimum wage rate since its introduction. [316701]

Mr. McFadden: Data for earnings are not available at the constituency level because of small sample sizes at this level in the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE).

At the regional level it is not possible to infer the number of employees earning exactly at the National Minimum Wage (NMW) with sufficient certainty. However it is possible to estimate the number who were paid at or below the NMW.

At the Government office region level the most recent figure from BIS analysis of the 2009 ASHE indicates the number of jobholders who were paid at or below the NMW in April 2009 in the London region was 62,000.

Music: Copyright

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment has been made of the likely effects of proposed changes to music licensing legislation on *(a)* churches and other religious establishments and *(b)* small voluntary organisations in North Cornwall. [316982]

Mr. Lammy: The Government did not undertake any region by region assessment and therefore North Cornwall was not considered on an individual basis. However, as part of the consultation process a final impact assessment was commissioned from independent consultants, Europe Economics. This assessment estimated the impact on groups across the UK which would be affected. A shortened and updated form was published on 12 November 2009 with the Government response which was placed in the Library of the House. This contains a weblink to the full Europe Economics impact assessment.

The exact impact will be determined by the outcome of consultations between Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL) and organisations concerned on licence fee levels. However, PPL has agreed to voluntarily exempt music as part of divine worship and domestic/family occasions such as weddings. As part of this process it is essential that PPL work with the third sector to agree reasonable and appropriate tariffs. We value the contribution musical performers make to the economic and cultural success of our country. We have got to make sure that they are rewarded for their efforts so they can continue creating. The Government want to ensure that discussions between PPL and the third sector are facilitated so that the outcome is satisfactory for all concerned. A mutually agreed solution is vital if the needs of both PPL members and the third sector are to be met. I remain confident that this will be possible.

One North East and North East Economic Forum: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what payments the *(a)* North East Development Agency and *(b)* North East Economic Forum has made to Sovereign Strategy in each of the last three years; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [302304]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is as follows:

(a) One North East, the Regional Development Agency for the North East of England has made one payment to Sovereign Strategy in March 2007 for £23,500.

This payment was for sponsorship of a conference event dated 17 November 2006 relating to the North East Economic Forum.

As the payment was in the form of sponsorship, a contract is not applicable.

(b) The North East Economic Forum is a separate legal entity independent of Government and therefore I am unable to provide the information.

Overseas Students: Admissions

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many foreign students have been refused entry to the UK since 2001; and what the reason for refusal was in each case. [311501]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The requested information is only available from 2004 onwards.

Since 2004, our records show that 577,993 student applications were refused leave to enter the UK at our visa issuing posts worldwide. A further 8,629 foreign students were refused entry to the UK at the border during the same period.

The reason for refusal in each case could be obtained by a detailed examination of individual records only at a disproportionate cost so will not be provided.

These figures have been extracted from locally collated management information, using a live database, which means that it is provisional and may be subject to change.

Post Offices

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether all Post Office branches hold information for customers on his Department's consultation on financial and banking products available through the Post Office; and if he will make a statement. [314580]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Limited have informed us that leaflets with details of the consultation on post office banking have been sent to all post offices.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of sub-post offices operate as *(a)* a stand-alone business and *(b)* one of (i) two, (ii) three and (iii) four or more businesses. [315885]

Mr. McFadden: I have asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many post offices have closed in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland in each year since 1987. [316898]

Mr. McFadden: I have asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Bank Services

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the recommendations of the Consumer Focus report entitled Opportunity Knocks published on 1 January 2010. [316540]

Mr. McFadden: The Government welcome the Consumer Focus report entitled Opportunity Knocks. Together with responses to the consultation on post office banking which is currently under way, it will help to inform the further development of banking and financial services available at post offices.

Regional Development Agencies: Offices

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) of 6 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 288W, on regional development agencies: offices, what the address is of each overseas office of each regional development agency; how many staff are employed in each such office; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such office in each of the last three years. [314949]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I will place a copy of the details requested in the Libraries of the House.

Strategic Investment Fund

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding from the £200 million allocated to the Strategic Investment Fund in the 2009 Pre-Budget Report has been *(a)* allocated and *(b)* disbursed to each project in each (i) constituency, (ii) local authority area and (iii) Government Office region. [315806]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 February 2010]:* In allocating the additional £200 million in the 2009 Pre-Budget Report, the Chancellor specified that £50 million would be spent on offshore wind investment, £30 million on low carbon vehicles, £30 million on decarbonisation of the chemicals industry on Teesside, £40 million on other low carbon projects, £5 million for new TSB prize funds in innovative technology and £5 million on enterprise support for service personnel. The money is available to spend only in the financial year 2010-11. This money has not yet been legally committed or disbursed.

In most cases, the location will be the subject of further competitions, for example through the TSB or the Office of Low Emission Vehicles, where funding is allocated on the basis of open and competitive bids throughout the UK which will be assessed strictly and solely on the basis of merit.

Students: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost of *(a)* fee loans, *(b)* maintenance loans and *(c)* maintenance grants for full-time higher education students and (i) fee grants and (ii) maintenance grants for part-time higher education students is expected to be in (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11. [317088]

Mr. Lammy: The current estimated provisions for 2009-10 and 2010-11 for England only are:

£million

Programme	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Maintenance Loans (RAB cost)	584	606
Tuition Fee Loans (RAB cost)	722	782
Maintenance Grants	929	1,076
Part-time Support	41	43

As fee grants and maintenance grants are not treated separately for part-time higher education students accounts it is not possible to provide a breakdown of this figure.

The Resource Accounting and Budgeting (RAB) cost figures represent the cost to the Government, not the cash made available to students for their support, tuition fee or payments made to universities on behalf of students. RAB costs are made up of interest rate subsidy together with the costs of loans that are not repaid as a matter of policy, for example loans that are written off after 25 years, or death.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the resource cost of *(a)* fee loans and *(b)* maintenance loans for full-time higher education students in England was in the latest period for which figures are available. [317089]

Mr. Lammy: In financial year 2008-09, the resource cost to Government of tuition fee loans was £546 million, and maintenance loans was £574 million for full-time higher education students in England. These costs are made up of interest rate subsidy together with the costs of loans that are not repaid as a matter of policy, for example loans that are written off after 25 years, or death.

Students: Grants

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students received non-repayable maintenance grants from Gloucestershire local authority in each of the last five years; and what the average grant received by such students was in each of those years. [317083]

Mr. Lammy: The information is as follows:

Grants for maintenance—Gloucestershire[1]

Academic year	*Grant*	*Applicants*	*Average (£)*
2004/05	HE Grant	960	830
2005/06	HE Grant	1,760	830
2006/07	HE Grant	1,430	850
	Maintenance Grant[2]	1,640	1,830
2007/08	HE Grant	830	870

Grants for maintenance—Gloucestershire[1]

Academic year	*Grant*	*Applicants*	*Average (£)*
	Maintenance Grant[2]	2,940	1,940
2008/09	HE Grant	270	830
	Maintenance Grant[2]	4,740	1,970

[1] Approved applicants awarded a full or partial grant. Figures rounded to nearest 10.
[2] Maintenance Grant includes Special Support Grant.
Source:
Student Loans Company

Summertime

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the merits of introducing British Summer Time and Double British Summer Time. [317516]

Mr. McFadden: This is a subject on which people have a range of differing views, and in relation to which requirements vary in different parts of the country. While the Government do not propose to change current arrangements, we continue to listen to representations we receive and consider any evidence presented to us.

UK Internet Governance Forum

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish the financial reports of the UK Internet Governance Forum for each year since its inception. [317947]

Mr. Timms: The UK Internet Governance Forum does not have a budget, its activities being sponsored by various UK stakeholders. It does not prepare annual financial reports.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills who decided on the membership of the UK Internet Governance Forum; and by what mechanisms members are nominated to that Forum. [317954]

Mr. Timms: Participation in the UK Internet Governance Forum is voluntary. Any organisation or individual who wishes to participate in its activities may do so.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish records of the meetings of the executive of the UK Internet Governance Forum. [317955]

Mr. Timms: The UK Internet Governance Forum does not have an executive body.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings the UK Internet Governance Forum has had since its inception. [317956]

Mr. Timms: The UK Internet Governance Forum has had five meetings since its launch on 6 March 2008.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills who the members are of the UK Internet Governance Forum executive committee; and if he will make a statement. [317957]

Mr. Timms: The UK Internet Governance Forum does not have an executive committee. The "dot.uk" registry, Nominet, takes the lead in organising UK IGF events and its communications with stakeholders (including a website www.ukigf.org.uk) working with other UK private sector stakeholders, BIS, my right hon. Friend the Member for Cardiff, South and Penarth (Alun Michael) as lead parliamentarian, and non-governmental organisations such as NSPCC, APC, Childnet and the Children's Coalition.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the remit is of the UK Internet Governance Forum. [317958]

Mr. Timms: The remit of the UK Internet Governance Forum is:

(i) to provide a platform for UK stakeholders in the internet, including business, civil society, parliamentarians, Government, academia and users, to consult and prepare for the annual global UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF);

(ii) for the stakeholders who attended the previous annual global IGF to disseminate outputs and information to non-participants; and

(iii) to help increase awareness of IGF activities and of the value of participation in the global, multi-stakeholder, non-decision-making IGF.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children In Care: Missing Persons

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of Baroness Morgan of Drefelin of 7 January 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords,* column 119WA, on people trafficking, whether he plans to introduce a central system for the collection of information on children who have gone missing from local authority care. [313658]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government do not collect details of individual children who have gone missing from local authority care and we do not plan to collect this information centrally in future. Local authorities have the legal responsibility for safeguarding children in their care and holding a central register would serve no real operational purpose and would not offer value for money as the register would have to be maintained and updated on a daily basis. We do collect information once a year about the number of children who are missing from their agreed placement for 24 hours or more, which we use to develop Government policy and guidance.

New 'Statutory Guidance on Children who Runaway and go Missing from Home and Care' was issued in July 2009. This requires that local authorities collect information about missing from care incidents. Local Runaway and Missing from Home and Care (RMFHC) protocols will set out the arrangements for sharing this information with the police to make sure that action is taken to locate the child and minimise the likelihood of their going missing in future. Local authorities must identify a senior manager to take responsibility for monitoring compliance with RMFHC protocols. This task will involve authorities maintaining a record of the numbers children that they look after who are missing from their care placements and the actions being taken to locate them and make sure that they are safe. Children's services must make regular reports to council members with responsibility for "corporate parenting" on patterns of children going missing from care.

Children: Human Trafficking

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assistance his Department is providing to the London borough of Hillingdon to support the borough's role in caring for trafficked children. [313059]

Dawn Primarolo: My ministerial colleague, the Baroness Morgan of Drefelin, met officials from the London borough of Hillingdon in March last year to discuss work they are undertaking on child trafficking at Heathrow airport in partnership with officers from the Paladin Team. It is for each local authority to provide services to meet the needs of their local population, including the needs of children who may have been trafficked. To support local authorities the Government published multi-agency guidance targeted specifically at safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who may have been trafficked in December 2007. This contains a comprehensive strategy to improve the identification and safeguarding of child victims of trafficking. Furthermore, in 2009 DCSF also published revised guidance on sexual exploitation and children missing from care and young runways guidance, which include details of how services must work to protect children from trafficking.

Children: Nutrition

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many food vending machines there are in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) England, (ii) Leicester and (iii) the East Midlands. [311165]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children Schools and Families does not collect this information.

Children: Public Law

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many cases were awaiting allocation in public law on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many children were involved in such cases; [307476]

(2) how many Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service cases were unallocated in London on the latest date for which figures are available. [307482]

Dawn Primarolo: Nationally, as of 11 January 2010, CAFCASS had 688 unallocated public law cases, involving 1,161 children. As of the same date, CAFCASS London had 27 unallocated public law cases, involving 44 children. All of these cases have been reviewed, prioritised and screened for risk and this is a continuous process until substantive allocation takes place. This Department has asked CAFCASS to take urgent action to tackle the unallocated cases and has made available additional resources for London of up to £1.6 million in this financial year to do so.

Class Sizes: Greater London

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average class size for *(a)* 5, *(b)* 6 and *(c)* 7 year-olds in primary schools was in each London borough in (i) 1990, (ii) 1992, (iii) 1997, (iv) 2001, (v) 2005 and (vi) the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [311850]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Class size information was first collected in 1998. Information for 1998, 2001, 2005 and 2009 is shown in the table.

Average class sizes[1] for year groups[2] 1, 2 and 3 in local authority maintained primary schools[3], years: 1998, 2001, 2005 and 2009, coverage: London boroughs

	1998			*2001*			*2005*			*2009*		
	Year group 1	*Year group 2*	*Year group 3*	*Year group 1*	*Year group 2*	*Year group 3*	*Year group 1*	*Year group 2*	*Year group 3*	*Year group 1*	*Year group 2*	*Year group 3*
Barking and Dagenham	27.6	27.7	25.8	26.9	26.5	28.1	26.7	27.5	27.2	27.9	27.9	27.0
Barnet	28.2	27.6	26.9	27.5	26.8	27.7	27.7	28.1	27.6	28.9	27.2	27.4
Bexley	29.3	30.2	29.8	27.8	27.1	29.0	27.7	27.3	27.6	28.1	27.6	28.3
Brent	26.9	24.6	27.0	27.6	27.6	28.4	26.6	27.2	28.6	29.2	28.1	27.9
Bromley	30.3	29.4	30.0	27.9	24.9	29.8	27.4	27.4	28.9	28.2	27.5	29.4
Camden	27.5	27.5	27.6	27.8	28.4	28.3	27.3	27.0	27.9	28.3	27.3	27.9
City of London	25.0	n/a	n/a	30.0	30.0	n/a	n/a	27.0	30.0	29.0	30.0	n/a
Croydon	28.4	28.1	29.5	27.3	26.7	27.8	26.8	28.1	28.3	28.7	27.9	28.0
Ealing	28.0	27.5	27.9	27.0	26.6	27.9	28.1	28.2	28.1	28.8	27.1	27.6
Enfield	29.9	29.9	29.7	27.8	27.5	28.7	27.8	27.4	29.1	28.9	28.7	28.7
Greenwich	26.1	26.8	27.6	25.6	25.9	26.8	26.7	27.2	26.8	27.2	26.2	26.1
Hackney	26.0	26.3	27.1	27.0	26.9	27.0	26.3	27.1	27.8	27.8	25.8	26.2
Hammersmith and Fulham	24.8	27.6	27.5	27.7	28.2	26.1	26.7	25.6	27.9	27.7	27.3	27.6
Haringey	27.9	26.9	27.3	28.2	28.2	27.7	26.6	28.2	28.3	28.4	27.8	26.7
Harrow	28.2	29.1	28.4	26.9	27.6	27.9	27.4	26.7	27.9	29.0	27.6	26.8
Havering	28.3	28.4	28.3	27.2	26.9	26.4	27.1	26.6	27.3	28.0	27.6	27.6
Hillingdon	28.6	29.1	27.8	26.6	26.2	26.5	26.9	26.2	26.9	28.0	26.9	27.4
Hounslow	28.7	27.4	26.9	27.1	27.4	26.1	27.2	25.9	26.9	28.9	26.5	27.4
Islington	28.6	26.1	29.4	26.5	27.6	27.8	26.9	26.3	26.2	26.5	25.2	26.6

Average class sizes[1] for year groups[2] 1, 2 and 3 in local authority maintained primary schools[3], years: 1998, 2001, 2005 and 2009, coverage: London boroughs

	1998			*2001*			*2005*			*2009*		
	Year group 1	*Year group 2*	*Year group 3*	*Year group 1*	*Year group 2*	*Year group 3*	*Year group 1*	*Year group 2*	*Year group 3*	*Year group 1*	*Year group 2*	*Year group 3*
Kensington and Chelsea	25.6	26.4	26.0	27.0	26.7	25.7	27.7	28.8	27.4	27.0	27.3	25.8
Kingston upon Thames	33.1	31.3	31.4	27.1	23.3	29.8	28.5	28.5	27.2	28.8	27.1	28.2
Lambeth	25.8	27.2	25.6	26.5	26.5	26.6	27.2	26.2	27.0	27.5	26.9	26.1
Lewisham	28.2	28.1	27.4	28.3	26.6	26.8	25.9	26.9	27.3	28.8	26.4	26.9
Merton	30.8	28.0	28.1	26.5	24.7	28.3	26.7	26.5	26.5	27.3	26.9	27.1
Newham	29.4	29.1	29.2	28.6	28.2	28.8	27.2	27.2	28.0	27.8	27.6	27.4
Redbridge	28.8	28.5	29.6	28.7	28.8	29.1	28.7	28.4	29.2	29.4	28.7	29.0
Richmond upon Thames	27.9	28.8	27.7	26.9	27.2	27.1	28.2	27.8	27.1	29.0	27.2	27.6
Southwark	27.1	27.4	27.6	26.9	26.8	27.4	25.7	26.6	26.7	26.0	25.2	25.0
Sutton	27.2	28.6	28.0	26.1	25.8	28.3	27.5	28.0	29.3	28.1	27.5	28.4
Tower Hamlets	28.5	27.7	28.1	28.0	27.2	26.8	27.1	27.8	27.6	28.6	27.4	26.6
Waltham Forest	27.4	28.9	27.5	27.7	27.1	29.8	28.6	27.2	27.1	28.8	29.1	28.4
Wandsworth	26.0	25.5	25.7	25.5	24.9	27.2	27.6	26.1	28.5	27.3	26.0	26.0
Westminster	26.3	24.0	26.0	28.3	27.8	25.6	26.7	27.2	27.6	25.9	27.6	26.5

n/a = Not applicable—no children in this year group

[1] One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.

[2] Year groups 1, 2 and 3 refer to children aged five, six and seven respectively, with the exception of a small number of children who are placed outside of their year group.

[3] Includes middle schools as deemed.

Source:

School Census

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in November and December 2009. [311203]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) paid 99.9 per cent. (which was rounded to 100 per cent. by DWP when they reported on DCSF performance) of invoices to suppliers within 10 days of receipt in November 2009 and 98 per cent. within 10 days of receipt in December 2009.

This is based on information supplied by the Department for Work and Pensions who process invoice payments on behalf of DCSF.

Note:

DCSF moved to a new ERP system under a Shared Services agreement with DWP in November 2009 and special payment arrangements were operated by DWP and DCSF during transition.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average length of time taken by his Department to pay invoices from *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprises and *(b)* all creditors in the last 12 months. [315066]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) paid 98 per cent. of invoices to suppliers within 10 days of receipt in December 2009 (This is based on information supplied by the Department for Work and Pensions who process invoice payments on behalf of DCSF).

These figures are for all creditors, including payments to small and medium-sized enterprises. While aiming to pay SMEs as soon as possible, and within 10 days, Departments and their agencies have agreed to bring forward payments to all businesses, given the role of larger businesses in the supply chain. This avoids complicating payment systems and potential competition or state aid issues.

Note:

DCSF moved to a new ERP system under a Shared Services agreement with DWP in November 2009 and special payment arrangements were operated by DWP and DCSF during transition.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible sell information on a commercial basis to *(a)* companies or individuals in the private sector and *(b)* other organisations. [313219]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Government Departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies that have Crown status, make most of their information available for free re-use under PSI Click-Use licence. Additionally, whilst some information is sold as priced publications, none of the Department for Children, Schools and Families' nine executive non-departmental public bodies sells information on a commercial/profit making basis to private sector companies/individuals and other organisations.

Departmental Fines

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what powers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) have to impose administrative penalties; what the statutory basis is for each such power; and how much (i) his Department and its predecessor and (ii) each of its NDPBs have recovered in administrative penalties in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [309260]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department (like its predecessor) has no powers to impose administrative penalties.

None of the Department's NDPBs has powers to impose administrative penalties.

Neither the Department, its predecessor, nor any of its NDPBs has therefore recovered any sum by way of administrative penalties.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which websites his Department's staff are prevented from accessing on departmental networked computers. [311469]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The DCSF Corporate IT System accesses the internet via the Government Secure Intranet (GSI) service as provided by Cable and Wireless and complies with the provisions of the GSI code of connection (as required by mandatory requirement 39 of the HMG Security Policy Framework). In order to assist with this compliance, DCSF utilises SurfControl's Web Filter to prevent access to undesirable websites. This software provides a list of categories to be blocked and URLs of sites within the category are updated on a daily basis. There are a small number of casual and contract staff who are not permitted any internet access. However, the majority of DCSF staff are allowed access to the internet subject to the following restrictions:

DCSF blocks access to the following categories:

Adult/Sexually Explicit

Intolerance and Hate

Criminal Activity

Violence

Weapons

Gambling

Spy ware

Hacking

In addition, a small number of individual websites have also been blocked for a variety of technical and policy related reasons.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many performance reviews were undertaken in respect of staff of his Department and its predecessors in each of the last five years; in how many cases performance was rated as unsatisfactory or below; how many staff left as a direct result of such a rating; and what percentage of full-time equivalent staff this represented. [313831]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested is set out in the following table:

	Department	*Numbers reviewed*	*Number not meeting required standard*	*Number unsatisfactory*
2008	DCSF	2,909	52	[1]—
2009	DCSF	2,813	60	[1]—

[1] Figures less than five have been suppressed on grounds of confidentiality

The Department reviews the performance of staff against their set objectives throughout the year and takes immediate action to address performance or development issues. If performance does not improve dismissal can result. The number for unsatisfactory in the above table only refers to those in grades below the senior civil service (SCS). There is no unsatisfactory mark in the SCS performance management system and poor performance procedures are started immediately.

Staff don't leave automatically as a result of an unsatisfactory marking as the performance improvement measures described above are put in place. Data for the former Department for Education and Skills (DfES) for the period 2005-07, is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessor spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* works of art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last two years. [312543]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Spend by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessor Department, Department for Education and Skills, on new furnishings, and new vehicles in the last two financial years and the current financial year to date is shown as follows.

Expenditure on new furnishings was higher during 2007-08 and 2008-09 owing to a total refurbishment programme at Sanctuary Buildings.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families financial system does not hold information on the amount of spend incurred purely for art works. Therefore the information could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

	Total new furnishings (desk, chairs, carpets, blinds and curtains) (£)	*New vehicles*
2007-08	1,657,739	0
2008-09	764,246	0
2009/10	125,978	0

Departmental Telephone Services

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many telephone lines with the prefix *(a)* 0870, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0800 his Department (i) operates and (ii) sponsors; how many calls were received to each number in the last 12 months; and whether alternative numbers charged at the BT local rate are available in each case. [305204]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The DCSF currently operates four telephone lines with the prefix *(a)* 0870, two telephone lines with the prefix *(b)* 0845 and one telephone line with the prefix *(c)* 0800. The DCSF currently sponsors no telephone lines with the prefix *(a)* 0870, four telephone lines with the prefix *(b)* 0845 and no telephone lines with the prefix *(c)* 0800. Alternative (geographic 'BT local rate') numbers are available in each case.

The DCSF cannot provide the number of calls received by each number in the last 12 months. The information is not readily available centrally in the Department. To provide the information would involve an extensive information collection exercise which would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students received education maintenance allowance in *(a)* England and *(b)* Milton Keynes in 2009-10. [311247]

Mr. Iain Wright: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Geoff Russell, the LSC's acting chief executive, will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Family Learning Impact Fund

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much has been spent on the Family Learning Impact Fund in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement; [314159]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Family Learning Impact Fund; and if he will make a statement. [314160]

Dawn Primarolo: Funding has been provided since April 2008 for the Family Learning Impact Fund. £10 million was made available in 2008-09 and £10 million in 2009-10.

The Family Learning Impact Fund has specific strands to support parents and their children—early years foundation stage, family numeracy, financial capability, digital families (school information for parents using online resources), and a strand looking at improving data collection on the number of parents and children participating.

The FLIF programme has exceeded its year 1 target of reaching 10,500 mothers and fathers, with 13,391 mothers and fathers and 9,700 children enrolling on the programme during 2008-09. In addition, the programme supported the training of 890 new family learning practitioners and helped develop a range of new resource materials to support delivery. The programme is on track to meet its targets for enrolling mothers and fathers (15,000) and children (10,000) on courses in year 2.

Foster Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate has been made of the number and proportion of local authorities which have a policy of considering friends and family as a first option when seeking foster placements for looked-after children; and if he will make a statement. [305292]

Dawn Primarolo: We do not collect data on the number of local authorities which have a policy of considering friends and family as a first option. However, it is already a principal of the Children Act 1989 that local authorities should support the upbringing of children by their families wherever possible, if it is in the child's best interests. The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 strengthened this requirement. Volume 1 of the revised Children Act 1989 statutory guidance requires local authorities to demonstrate that they have considered family members and friends as potential carers at each stage of the decision making process.

GCE A-level

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many white *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls eligible for free school meals achieved three A grades at A-level in 1997. [312062]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 19 January 2010]:* The information can not be provided as pupil level data relating to ethnicity and free school meals was not collected as far back as 1997.

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of white *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls eligible for free school meals at the end of key stage 4 achieved five A* or A grades at GCSE, including English and mathematics but excluding equivalents in the (i) earliest and (ii) most recent year for which figures are available. [309638]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* Pupil level attainment data by free school meal eligibility and ethnicity is only available from 2003 onwards. The information requested is presented in the following table and is for maintained schools only.

	Number of white pupils[1] eligible for free school meals achieving five or more A or A grades at GCSE including English and Maths (excluding equivalents)*		*Percentage of white pupils eligible for free school meals achieving five or more A* or A grades at GCSE including English and Maths (excluding equivalents)*	
	Boys	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*
2003	156	213	0.6	0.8
2009[2]	211	344	0.8	1.4

[1] Figures for 2003 are based on pupils aged 15 and 2009 figures are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4.
[2] Figures for 2009 are provisional.
Source:
National Pupil Database

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils eligible for free school meals attended schools at which fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils achieved five A* to C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics but excluding equivalents in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [311637]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* In 2009 there were 89,580 pupils eligible[1] for free school meals attending schools at which fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils achieved five A* to C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics but excluding equivalents[2] (includes post 16 pupils).

To provide information for 1997 would incur disproportionate cost.

[1] Those eligible may choose not to take up their offer of a free school meal for various reasons e.g. through preference or non attendance on the day. Pupils are counted as eligible only if they meet the eligibility criteria and make a claim.

[2] Includes maintained mainstream schools with more than 10 pupils. Qualifications include GCSEs, GCSE short courses, GCSE double awards, vocational single and double GCSEs and AS levels.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of students at each secondary school in *(a)* the City of Newcastle upon Tyne, *(b)* North Tyneside borough, *(c)* Gateshead borough and *(d)* Northumberland (i) achieved English GCSE grades A* to C, (ii) achieved mathematics GCSE grades A* to C and (iii) qualified for free school meals in 2009. [313574]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 26 January 2010]*: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries.

Health Education: Sex

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to change the protection provided for in law against the teaching of sex and relationships education not appropriate to the age, religious and cultural background of pupils. [311015]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Children, Schools and Families Bill includes provisions that place a duty on the governing body and head teacher of a school to ensure that personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education (which includes sex and relationships education) is taught in a way that is appropriate to the ages of the pupils concerned and to their religious and cultural backgrounds.

Home Education Independent Review

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many representatives he has received on the recommendations of the Badman review of secondary education percentage of these supported the introduction of a regulator for home education. [312752]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The registration and monitoring of home education proposals arising from the Badman report were subject to a full public consultation between 11 June and 19 October 2009. There were 5,211 responses which were mainly from home educators, their relatives and supporters and related organisations. Most of the responses were against the introduction of registration and monitoring.

Music: Education

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of *(a)* Key Stage 1 and *(b)* Key Stage 2 pupils received specialist instrumental or vocal tuition in each of the last five years. [313770]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 28 January 2010]*: There is no requirement for schools to provide this information, though the following data are available from information which local authorities voluntarily report to the National Music Participation Director in connection with their Local Authority Music Plans. Local authorities had predicted that 22 per cent. of their Key Stage 2 pupils would participate in their Wider Opportunities programmes in 2008-09, and have since reported that the actual figure was 24 per cent. that is 509,628 pupils. For 2009/10 the predicted figure is 31 per cent. The actual numbers will be reported to the National Music Participation Director by November 2010 and the percentage then calculated using the figure for total Key Stage 2 pupil numbers.

84 per cent. of primary schools have now signed up to 'Sing Up'.

National Safeguarding Delivery Unit: Standards

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1123W, on the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit: standards, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the agreed monthly Milestones. [312233]

Dawn Primarolo: The agreed milestones for the implementation of the Government's response to Lord Laming's recommendations are set out in 'The protection of children in England: action plan - The Government's response to Lord Laming', published in May last year, available at

http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=CM+7589&

The National Safeguarding Delivery Unit reports progress towards these milestones to a cross-Government programme board of senior officials which meets on a monthly basis.

The Unit also reports into the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Families, Children, and Young People through a new ministerial sub-group which meets on a quarterly basis.

The National Safeguarding Delivery Unit published an interim report on progress made towards these milestones on 18 December 2009, available at

http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications& ProductId=DCSF-01181-2009&

A further progress report will be published in due course.

Pre-School Education: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* free nursery and *(b)* pre-school places were available for (i) three and (ii) four year-olds in Preston in each year since 1997. [311236]

Dawn Primarolo: Table 1 shows the number of part-time equivalent places filled by three and four year olds in Preston constituency from 2004 to 2009.

The Department publishes information on the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four year olds in maintained, private, voluntary and independent providers. Information on the number of pre-school places is not separately available. Part-time equivalent places are derived by counting children taking up 12 and a half hours per week as one place, 10 hours per week as 0.8 places, seven and a half hours per week as 0.6 places, five hours per week as 0.4 places and two and a half hours per week as 0.2 places. Data at Parliamentary constituency level are not available prior to 2004.

Table 1: Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1, 2, 3] filled by three and four year olds[4], Parliamentary constituency: Preston, position in January each year

	3-year-olds	*4-year-olds*
2004	1,100	1,200
2005	1,100	1,100
2006	1,100	1,100
2007	1,200	1,100
2008	1,200	1,100
2009	1,300	1,100

[1] A place is equal to 12.5 hours (five sessions) and can be filled by more than one child.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

[3] Prior to 2004, information on early education places was derived from returns made by local authorities as part of the Nursery Education Grant (NEG) data collection exercise. These data were collected at local authority level, therefore, data for this parliamentary constituency is not available prior to 2004.

[4] Age of all children taken at 31 December in the previous calendar year.

Source:

Early Years Census and School Census

The latest figures on early education places for three and four year olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 11/2009 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2009", available on my Department's website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000848/index.shtml

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many new nurseries have been established in Preston since 1997. [311238]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department only holds data for the establishment of maintained nursery provision, which is recorded at local authority level. Information on other types of nursery provision is not held centrally. The following table sets out the numbers for each year in which new maintained nursery provision was established in the Lancashire local authority area, under local decision making arrangements which were introduced in September 1999.

From this local authority level data we have identified that no new maintained nursery schools have been established in Preston since 1999. However, two primary schools made prescribed alterations to add nursery units to their schools in 2001 and these are highlighted in the local authority table. Information about decisions made under the arrangements that operated prior to September 1999 is not reliable and is, therefore, not included.

New maintained nursery provision established in the Lancashire local authority area

	2001	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2010*	*Total*
New maintained nursery Schools	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
New nursery units added to other schools	[1]4	2	1	1	2	1	11
Total	4	3	1	1	3	1	13

[1] Includes the two Preston Primary Schools

Primary Education: Pupil Numbers

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what projections his Department has made of the numbers of primary school children over the next 10 years; and what funding has been allocated to increase numbers of such children in *(a)* Test Valley borough, *(b)* Southampton City, *(c)* the Ceremonial County of Hampshire and *(d)* the South East. [313879]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department's projections for the number of pupils in maintained primary schools in England between 2009/10 and 2016/17 are given in the following table.

Projections are not published beyond 2017 due to the increasing levels of uncertainty over time. For example, the outturn for January 2009 differed by nearly 1.0 per cent. from our 2003 based projection for that year, but was less than 0.2 per cent. out from our 2008 based projection. Factors which contribute to differences between projections and outturn data include the underlying population trends, participation among under fives and variations of proportions attending independent schools.

Maintained primary schools, full-time equivalent number of pupils[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]

	Thousand
At January in each academic year	*Maintained primary schools*
Actual	
2008/09	3,947
Projected	
2009/10	3,967
2010/11	4,010
2011/12	4,081
2012/13	4,176
2013/14	4,292
2014/15	4,376
2015/16	4,437
2016/17	4,483

[1] Full-time equivalent numbers count each part-time pupil as 0.5.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand pupils.

[3] The data include dually registered pupils.

[4] Experience has shown that totals in maintained primary schools are usually within ±0.2 per cent. for the first projected year. There is less certainty in the longer term. For example, the outturn for January 2009 differed by nearly 1.0 per cent. from our 2003 based projection for that year, but was less than 0.2 per cent. out from our 2008 based projection. Factors which contribute to differences between projections and outturn data include the underlying population trends, participation among under fives and variations of proportions attending independent schools.

[5] Projections allow for increase in take up of early years education towards universal provision.

[6] Projections use the mid-2008 based Office for National Statistics (ONS) population projections.

[7] The previous projections (PT278), published in Annex N of the Department's Annual Report of June 2009, used the mid-2006 based ONS population projections.

Sources:

School census (January 2009) and DCSF pupil projections (PT279, December 2009)

The Department does not allocate funding on a phase basis, so no figures for primary school funding are available. Total Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding figures for pupils aged three to 15 for Southampton LA, Portsmouth LA, Hampshire LA and south east LAs in 2009-10 (final allocations) and 2010-11 (indicative allocations) are shown as follows. No funding allocations have been made beyond 2010-11 at this time. (Allocations for Test Valley borough are included within Hampshire LA.)

£ million

Local authority	*Final 2009-10 DSG allocations*	*Indicative 2010-11 DSG allocations*
Southampton	112.153	117.063
Portsmouth	101.015	104.174
Hampshire	692.510	720.147
South East LAs	4,546.166	4,735.011

These figures are for DSG revenue funding only and exclude any capital monies.

Further details can be found at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/schoolfunding/schoolfunding2008to11/dsg200811/

In addition to DSG, further funding to schools is available through specific grants such as the School Standards Grant, School Development Grant and other Standards Funds. Further details for the latest specific grant allocation in 2009-10 and 2010-11 are available at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/schoolfunding/schoolfunding2008to11/specificgrants200811/

In November 2009, the Department announced the allocation of £1,000,000 to Southampton LA to support the provision of additional primary places by 2011. This was part of a total of £271 million that was allocated to 34 authorities which had applied for exceptional funding for additional primary school places where there was greatest need. Hampshire LA also applied for this funding, but did not meet our criteria of high growth and need.

Pupil Exclusions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils received more than *(a)* 15 and *(b)* 20 fixed-period exclusions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [312791]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information for 2007/08 is shown in the table. Information for 2006/07 has also been included.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3]: Number of times pupil enrolments were excluded for a fixed period[4], 2006/07 and 2007/08

	Number of pupil enrolments[4]	
	2006/07	*2007/08*
Number of fixed period exclusions per pupil enrolment[5]		
More than 15	130	150
More than 20	40	40

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Pupils may be counted more than once if they were registered at more than one school or moved schools during the school year.

[5] Those pupils counted in the 'more than 20' category are also included in the 'more than 15' category.

Note:

Figures rounded to nearest 10.

Source:

School Census.

Pupils: Epilepsy

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of children with epilepsy in mainstream schools who achieve examination results lower than indicated by their assessed intellectual level. [312675]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Information on the attainment of pupils with epilepsy is not collected centrally.

Pupils: Greater London

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average per pupil funding in *(a)* rural, *(b)* urban and *(c)* inner London secondary schools was in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [310541]

Mr. Coaker: The average per student funding of secondary schools in rural, urban and inner-London settings is set out for the financial years 2004-05 and 2009-10 in the following table. Data are not available before 2004-05 as the urban/rural classification was only created in 2004. To produce urban/rural data for all years would be at disproportionate cost so a comparator of inner London and rest of England has been provided for intervening years.

The Education (Budget Statements) (England) Regulations, total budget share (plus grants)[1, 2] per pupil[3] in secondary schools[4] in England in inner London[5] and rest of England 2004-05 to 2009-10 (with an urban/rural split in RoE 2004-05 and 2009-10), cash terms[6] figures as reported by local authorities as at 12 January 2010

	Total budget share (plus grants) per pupil (£)				
	Inner London	*Urban (excluding inner London)*	*Rural*	*Rest of England (i.e. excluding inner London)*	*England*
2004-05	4,580	3,440	3,250	3,410	3,460
2005-06	4,970	—	—	3,700	3,760
2006-07	5,380	—	—	4,040	4,100
2007-08	6,020	—	—	4,380	4,440
2008-09	6,260	—	—	4,560	4,630

The Education (Budget Statements) (England) Regulations, total budget share (plus grants)[1] [2] per pupil[3] in secondary schools[4] in England in inner London[2] and rest of England 2004-05 to 2009-10 (with an urban/rural split in RoE 2004-05 and 2009-10), cash terms' figures as reported by local authorities as at 12 January 2010

	Total budget share (plus grants) per pupil[5] (£)				
	Inner London	*Urban (excluding inner London)*	*Rural*	*Rest of England (i.e. excluding inner London)*	*England*
2009-10	6,480	4,750	4,430	4,700	4,770

[1] Budget share plus grants allocated to schools is the combination of the schools individual budget share plus any revenue grants allocated to the school at the start of the financial year. This does not include any capital funding allocated to schools.

[2] The amount of money allocated to a school depends on the school funding policy of each local authority. There will be differences between authorities in the amounts of funding held centrally to spend on behalf of their schools.

[3] The pupil numbers used to calculate the per pupil amounts are as reported by the local authority on their Section 52 Budget Statement (Table 2), comprising the full-time equivalent number of pupils registered at the school, used for the initial determination of the school's budget share under the local authority's allocation formula.

[4] Included are all local authority maintained primary schools which are reported by their LA as being open for the entire final year (schools that are reported as either opening or closing during the financial year have been removed).

[5] Figures are rounded to nearest £10.

Pupils: Obesity

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has made an estimate of the level of obesity amongst pupils who are eligible for free school meals. [310368]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 12 January 2010]*: The information is not available in the form requested.

However, the National Child Measurement programme (NCMP) provides data on the prevalence of obesity in children aged four to five years (reception year) and 10 to 11 years (year 6). Figures 13 and 14 in the NCMP report for 2008/09 provide information on the prevalence of obese children in reception and year 6 as measured by the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007. This publication has been placed in the Library. The report shows there is a strong gradient for child obesity against area-based deprivation: the obesity prevalence rate in children in the decile of highest deprivation is 22.6 per cent. compared to 13.4 per cent. of children in the decile of lowest deprivation. Data from the school census 2009 shows a similar gradient for eligibility for free school meals against area-based deprivation: 40.5 per cent. of pupils aged five to 15 in the decile of highest deprivation are eligible for free school meals compared to 2.3 per cent. of pupils aged five to 15 in the decile with lowest deprivation.

Schools: Microphones

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of state schools in England have a facility for the sound amplification of teachers' voices fitted in the majority of classrooms. [315955]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not collect information about the number of state schools with the facility for the sound amplification of teachers' voices.

For schools that wish to install such facilities, guidance is given in the Department's Building Bulletin 93 "Acoustic Design of Schools".

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has commissioned any recent research on the effects on pupil *(a)* learning and *(b)* behaviour of the sound amplification of teachers' voices in classrooms. [315956]

Mr. Coaker: The Department has not commissioned any research about the effects of the sound amplification of teachers' voices in classrooms on pupil learning and behaviour.

Schools: Playing Fields

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much revenue has accrued from the sale of school playing fields since May 1997; and what area of such fields has been sold in Leeds West constituency in that period. [306591]

Mr. Iain Wright: Legislation was introduced on 1 October 1998, under section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act, to stop the indiscriminate sale of school playing fields. We do not hold records of how many were sold before this date but we do know that there was growing public concern about the number being lost. Since 1 October 1998 no school playing field has been sold to raise revenue funding.

A sale is only allowed if the playing field in question is genuinely surplus and all of the sale proceeds must be used towards specific capital projects to improve school sports provision or educational facilities.

Investment in school buildings has risen from £683 million in 1996-97 to £21.8 billion in the three year period 2008-09 to 2010-11. Schools no longer have to sell their playing fields to pay for repairs.

There have not been any approvals for the sale of school playing fields in Leeds West constituency.

Schools: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the effects on schools of changes to the level of expenditure on school sports in Preston since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [311233]

Dawn Primarolo: In the eight years to 2011, the Government would have invested £2.4 billion in the national PE and sport strategy which aims to improve the quality and quantity of physical education (PE) and school sport up and down the country. At the heart of our strategy is the establishment of a national infrastructure of School Sport Partnerships, which now includes every maintained school in the country. However, the boundaries and membership of School Sport Partnerships in Preston has changed over time, as the network was rolled out across the country. This makes it difficult to show, accurately, the extent of the impact of that investment in Preston.

However, our annual PE and sport survey shows that, in Lancashire as a whole, the percentage of pupils doing at least two hours high quality PE and sport per week has increased over time, as follows:

	Percentage
2004/05	56
2005/06	77
2006/07	82
2007/08	89

In 2008/09, the survey changed to measure the percentage of pupils doing three hours high quality PE and sport each week. For Lancashire as a whole this figure was 52 per cent., against a national figure of 51 per cent.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has made a recent estimate of the proportion of schools which hold an annual sports day. [316730]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 10 February 2010]:* The annual PE and Sport Survey collects data from maintained schools relating to pupils' participation in PE and sport. The 2008/09 survey found that all primary schools and 98 per cent. of secondary schools held a sports day during the last academic year.

Schools: Standards

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools rated inadequate for *(a)* behaviour and *(b)* leadership by Ofsted are also rated (i) inadequate overall, (ii) satisfactory overall, (iii) good overall and (iv) outstanding overall; [316913]

(2) how many schools Ofsted rates *(a)* outstanding, *(b)* good, *(c)* satisfactory and *(d)* inadequate. [316914]

(3) how many schools Ofsted rates as outstanding for leadership. [316915]

Mr. Coaker: These are matters for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 11 February 2010:

Your recent parliamentary questions have been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

The latest period for which published figures about maintained school section 5 inspection outcomes are available is the academic year 2008/09. This answer, therefore, takes into account inspections carried out prior to 1 September 2009.

At 1 December 2009 there were 22,260 schools open and eligible for a section 5 Ofsted inspection. Of these, 21,920 had received at least one section 5 inspection. These schools, together with their latest inspection judgements, form the basis for the response.

Of the 21,920 schools, 3,577 (16%) were judged as outstanding for overall effectiveness at their last inspection, 11,033 (50%) were judged as good, 6,950 (32%) were judged as satisfactory and 360 (2%) were found to be inadequate.

Of the 21,920 schools, 3,972 (18%) were judged as outstanding for leadership and management at their last inspection and 222 (1%) were judged as inadequate.

Of the 222 schools judged to have inadequate leadership and management, all were judged to be inadequate for overall effectiveness.

Of the 21,920 schools, 48 were judged to have inadequate behaviour. Of these, 9 were judged to be satisfactory for overall effectiveness and 39 were judged as inadequate. None was found to be outstanding or good for overall effectiveness.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and placed in the library of both Houses.

Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many qualified teachers have stopped working as teachers since 2003; [315518]

(2) how many teachers who had left the maintained sector were teaching in another sector in the latest year for which figures are available. [315528]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Teaching: Licensing

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with the General Teaching Council on arrangements for implementation of his Department's proposed licence to practise; how much funding has been allocated to the implementation of that scheme; and if he will make a statement. [316908]

Mr. Coaker: We are working closely through a joint project with the General Teaching Council for England (GTCE) to design a licensing system that is simple and workable. The clauses providing for a 'licence to practise' are included in the Children, Schools and Families Bill which is progressing through Parliament. We have already published an impact assessment alongside the Bill which outlines our current estimates of the costs of introducing the system to support the 'licence to practise'. We will have a clearer picture of the precise costs once the joint work with the GTCE is concluded. The impact assessment and other related documents are available on the website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/childrenschoolsandfamiliesbill/

Vocational Education

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the effects on students' careers of the availability of vocational courses in schools. [313299]

Mr. Coaker: An assessment has not been made to date of the effects on careers of vocational learning in schools. We do know that wider research has indicated a positive return to earnings for those undertaking vocational learning while our own Youth Cohort study suggests that around 22 per cent. of learners with existing vocational qualifications are in higher education by the age of 19. Vocational and applied qualifications offer valuable choice to young people and 14-19 Diplomas in particular will enable young people to achieve their ambitions because employers and higher education designed them.

Young People: Community Orders

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to his Department's press release of 24 April 2009 on community service for young people, from which budgets the funding for the programme will be drawn. [314842]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Community Service programme will be funded from DCSF programme budgets.

Young People: Training

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what formula was used to determine the funding allocated to local authorities for 16-plus skills provision in 2010-11. [314758]

Mr. Iain Wright: The funding formula used to determine the allocation for each provider is that contained within the learner responsive model for schools and colleges and within the employer responsive model for work-based learning providers. Details of how these models work can be found at:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/publications/latestdocuments/Detail.htm?id=abeca474-ace6-493e-9fc9-e83545caf9b5

Funding is not allocated through local authorities for 19+ education and training other than for those with a learning difficulty assessment.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been awarded to each local authority for 16-plus skills provision in 2010-11. [314759]

Mr. Iain Wright: Funding allocated to local authorities for 16-18 learning in the 2010/11 academic year will be the aggregation of all 16-18 providers they are responsible for. The amount of funding each provider will be allocated in 2010/11 is currently being agreed and will be announced by the end of March 2010. Funding is not allocated through local authorities for 19+ education and training other than for those with a learning difficulty assessment.

Young People: Unemployment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of people aged between 16 and 24 years were not in education, employment or training in each region in each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available. [300822]

Mr. Iain Wright: Official estimates of the number and proportion of young people of academic age 16 to 18[1] who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) are published by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June and can be found on the Department's website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000849/index.shtml

Estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) of the number and proportion of people of academic age 16 to 24 who were NEET in each region in England in each of the last eight quarters are shown in the following tables.

	Q4 2007		*Q1 2008*		*Q2 2008*		*Q3 2008*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
North East	49,000	15	52,000	16	56,000	17	65,000	20
North West	120,000	14	136,000	16	139,000	16	151,000	18
Yorkshire and Humberside	82,000	12	75,000	11	101,000	15	119,000	18
East Midlands	70,000	13	69,000	13	71,000	13	86,000	16
West Midlands	93,000	15	95,000	15	98,000	16	119,000	19
East of England	74,000	12	87,000	14	77,000	13	82,000	13
London	123,000	14	129,000	15	132,000	15	149,000	16
South East	116,000	13	104,000	12	111,000	12	131,000	14
South West	56,000	10	63,000	11	55,000	10	71,000	13
England	782,000	13	810,000	14	840,000	14	973,000	16

	Q4 2008		*Q1 2009*		*Q2 2009*		*Q3 2009*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
North East	54,000	17	57,000	18	69,000	21	74,000	23
North West	142,000	17	156,000	18	155,000	18	183,000	21
Yorkshire and Humberside	92,000	14	107,000	16	121,000	19	126,000	19
East Midlands	68,000	13	69,000	13	75,000	14	90,000	17
West Midlands	105,000	16	126,000	20	131,000	21	123,000	19
East of England	79,000	13	83,000	14	82,000	13	92,000	15
London	131,000	15	127,000	14	120,000	13	164,000	17
South East	122,000	13	130,000	14	142,000	15	144,000	16
South West	63,000	11	78,000	14	66,000	12	86,000	16
England	857,000	14	935,000	16	959,000	16	1,082,000	18

Estimates from the Labour Force Survey and will include pregnant mothers, those caring for children or relatives, people with a disability or suffering from ill health, and those waiting for a course or job to start.

including those on a gap year. It should also be noted that the estimates are subject to survey error, and should therefore be treated with caution. The 95 per cent. confidence interval for a regional estimate of NEET using the Labour Force Survey is typically around plus or minus 2-3 percentage points.

We are committed to ensuring that young people NEET do not become a "lost generation" and have taken decisive action to strengthen existing provision and put in place new support, training and jobs for young people. Through the September Guarantee, we are offering all 16 and 17-year-olds a suitable place to continue in learning, and announced on 18 November plans to extend the Guarantee to 16 and 17-year-olds who are NEET in January. Budget 2009 announced the Young Person's Guarantee of a job, training or a place in the Community Task Force for 18 to 24-year-olds who are approaching 12 months on jobseeker's allowance. Already 95,000 jobs under the Future Jobs Fund have been approved and some young people have started work.

In July, the Government launched 'Backing Young Britain' to bring together businesses, charities and Government to create opportunities for young people giving them a better start on the career ladder.

By offering schemes such as volunteering, work experience and apprenticeships we will ensure that young people get the start they deserve to get on the career ladder.

[1] Academic age refers to the age at the start of the academic year, 31 August.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of 16 to 19 year-olds in Torbay constituency were *(a)* in education, training or employment and *(b)* unemployed in each year since 1992. [314617]

Mr. Iain Wright: Estimates of the number of 16 to 19-year-olds participating in education, employment or training are not available at parliamentary constituency level. The Department for Children Schools and Families publishes annual estimates of the proportion of 16 to 17-year-olds participating in education and training in each local authority. These estimates are available via this link under "additional information":

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000849/index.shtml

Connexions services, which have responsibility for supporting young people and tracking their progress, record the main activity of 16 to 18-year-olds who are known to them in each local authority area. These estimates include young people who are resident elsewhere and travel into the area to study. Furthermore, the denominator for these estimates includes a small number of young people whose main activity is not known.

	Proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds in education, training or employment (percentage)
2006[1]	83.8
2007[2]	94.8
2008[2]	94.5

[1] 2006 estimate excludes young people in part-time employment.
[2] 2007 and 2008 estimates include young people in part-time employment.

Claimant count data is available via the Office for National Statistics Nomis website:

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/

The following table shows the average number of young people aged 16 to 19 claiming job seeker's allowance and thereby registered unemployed in the Torbay constituency in each year from 1996, the first year available. Because population estimates for 16 to 19-year-olds are not routinely available by parliamentary constituency, it is not possible to express these figures as percentages.

Average 16-19 year old claimant count in Torbay

	Average claimant count
1996	340
1997	265
1998	250
1999	215
2000	160
2001	170
2002	160
2003	160
2004	150
2005	140
2006	170
2007	170
2008	175
2009	285

It should be noted that 16 and 17-year-olds do not have access to job seeker's allowance except in cases of severe hardship.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Primates

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many primates imported into the UK for the purposes of scientific research during 2008 and 2009 were reported to be sick or dead on arrival. [316437]

Meg Hillier: During 2008, no non-human primates imported into the UK for the purposes of scientific research were reported to be sick or dead on arrival.

During 2009, no non-human primates were reported to be dead on arrival. Two showed clinical signs leading to euthanasia after arrival and two had minor injuries requiring treatment.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas primate suppliers are accredited by his Department to export non-human primates to the UK; and in which country each is based. [316439]

Meg Hillier: The Home Office has no remit to accredit overseas primate suppliers. However, the use of any non-human primate from an overseas source under the authority of a project licence issued under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 requires prior approval which is given only if the conditions at the supplying centre, and at the breeding centre where the animals originate if different, are acceptable to the Home Office at the time of the supply.

There are a total of 10 overseas centres currently considered accepted to provide non-human primates to

UK designated user establishments. They are based in Cambodia, China, Israel, Mauritius, Netherlands, Spain and Vietnam.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders were issued in respect of people *(a)* under the age of 16 years, *(b)* aged between 17 and 18 years, *(c)* aged between 19 and 25 years and *(d)* over the age of 25 years in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [317699]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued currently covers the period up to 31 December 2007.

During 2007, a total of 920 ASBOs were issued to young people (defined as being aged 10 to 17 at the date of appearance in court) at all courts in England and Wales. The corresponding figure for adults (defined as being aged 18 or over at the date of appearance in court) is 1,362. During 2007, an additional 17 persons whose age was not reported to the Ministry of Justice were issued with an ASBO.

Antisocial Behaviour: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on programmes to tackle anti-social behaviour in Hemsworth in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* 2008-09. [316634]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Funding data for 1997-98 are not readily available.

The Home Office did not provide direct funding for programmes to tackle antisocial behaviour in Hemsworth or Wakefield Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) in 2008-09.

A number of specific and individual Home Office grants have now been combined into Area Based Grant (ABG), which is allocated to local authorities on a three-year basis to maximise stability and certainty. The receiving authorities have flexibility to use ABG as they see fit to deliver local, regional and national priorities in their respective areas.

Home Office-led activities also act to tackle antisocial behaviour, for example the introduction of community support officers. Funding for neighbourhood policing (NP) (including police community support officers (PCSOs) has been provided to police authorities since 2002-03. For England and Wales the total funding for 2008-09 was £324 million. Hemsworth is within the West Yorkshire police area. Funding for West Yorkshire for 2008-09 NP/PCSOs was £13.6 million. It is for police authorities to allocate resources, and for chief constables to deploy personnel (including PCSOs) within each police force area.

Anti-terrorism Control Orders

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces have had responsibility for the enforcement of a control order upon an individual since 2005; how many control orders each such force has been responsible for enforcing in that period; and what estimate he has made of the cost to each such force of discharging such responsibilities. [316105]

Mr. Hanson: Between March 2005 and 10 December 2009 (the date at which the last written ministerial statement in relation to control orders reported on), the Metropolitan Police Service was responsible for 25 control orders. 13 other police forces were responsible for the enforcement of 28 control orders. The total number of control orders each police force has been responsible for is greater than the 45 individuals who have ever been subject to control orders because some controlled individuals have moved between police force areas. I would also refer the hon. Member to written ministerial statements in relation to control orders published on 11 December 2006, 16 January 2007, 22 March 2007, 24 May 2007, 21 June 2007 (two statements), 17 September 2007, 13 March 2008, 12 June 2008, 15 September 2008, 15 December 2008, 12 March 2009, 15 June 2009, 16 September 2009 and 15 December 2009 which provide the total number of controlled individuals in and outside of the Metropolitan Police Service area. This is as much information as we can provide about the police forces responsible for controlled individuals given the national security sensitivities of these cases and the need to avoid publishing any information that could lead to the identification of an individual who is subject to an anonymity order.

The enforcement of control orders is managed from within each police force's overall budget, which includes ring-fenced counter-terrorism funding. The Home Office does not have an estimated cost of managing control orders for each police force. I would refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statements on the allocation of counter-terrorism grants for police authorities for 2005-06; 2006-07; 2007-08; 2008-09; 2009-10 which were published on, respectively, 2 December 2004; 5 December 2005; 28 November 2006; 6 December 2007; 26 November 2008 and 26 November 2009.

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what expenditure was incurred on private security firms engaged by police forces for the enforcement of control orders in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [316106]

Mr. Hanson: The Secretary of State is not aware that any expenditure has been incurred on private security firms engaged by police forces for the enforcement of control orders.

The electronic monitoring of controlled individuals is delivered by private security companies under contract with the Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his Department's total expenditure incurred in respect of the Control Order Review Group was in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [316107]

Mr. Hanson: The cost of establishing the Home Office's total expenditure for the Control Order Review Group for 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of legal action associated with control orders in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [316108]

Mr. Hanson: The amount spent by the Home Office on legal action associated with control orders in each financial year starting from April 2006 is set out in the following table. These figures include the costs of the Home Office's own legal representation and advice, the costs of the special advocates and the Special Advocates Support Office and meeting the legal costs of the controlled persons where this has been ordered by the court. The figure for the financial year 2006-07 is based partially on estimates.

The figure for 2009-10 will not be fully audited until the end of the financial year and may therefore be subject to change. All figures are rounded to the nearest £100.

Amount spent by Home Office on legal action associated with control orders

Financial year	£
2006-07	1,530,900
2007-08	3,766,200
2008-09	1,837,300
2009-10 (to end January)	1,453,300

The amount attributed by the Legal Service Commission (LSC) to control order legal proceedings is set out in the following table. The LSC cannot be certain that all costs have been paid in a given case until it is closed. The great majority of control order cases in which LSC funding certificates have been issued remain open. The figures provided should therefore not be taken to reflect the full extent of the legal costs of controlled person's open legal representation. Similarly, the LSC will only usually be made aware that the Home Office has been ordered to pay all or part of the legal costs of a controlled person at the point that is the case is closed. Whilst an exact figure cannot be provided, the LSC figures may include some costs already paid by the Home Office that are yet to be recouped.

Amount attributed to control order proceedings by the LSC

Financial year	£
2006-07	391,000
2007-08	476,300
2008-09	554,400
2009-10 (to end December)	524,300

The Home Office does not hold information on the cost to Her Majesty's Court Service, the Supreme Court or the House of Lords of legal action associated with control orders.

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what awards for costs were made against the Government in respect of individuals appealing against control orders put upon them in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [316109]

Mr. Hanson: When the courts award costs against the Secretary of State, they do not determine the amount that the Government must pay. This will normally be determined by negotiation between the parties.

No records are held in relation to the amount paid in relation to awards for costs in control order cases made in the financial year 2006-2007.

Informal records not subject to Home Office accounting and audit processes indicate that the Home Office has paid £1,101,100 in relation to awards for costs in control order cases made in the financial year 2007-2008. (All figures are rounded to the nearest £100.)

£61,000 has been paid to date in relation to awards for costs made in the financial year 2008-2009. As settlement has not yet been reached in most cases, this represents an interim figure.

£341,400 has been paid to date in relation to awards for costs made in the financial year 2009-2010. This represents an interim figure as most claims for costs relating to awards made in this financial year have not yet been received and settlement has not yet been reached in those cases where claims have been received.

Arrests

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests were made by police officers in each year since 1999; and what the average number of arrests per police officer was in each such year. [317641]

Alan Johnson: The requested data are published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletins "Police Powers and Procedures" and "Police Service Strength". The latest editions are available online and all editions are available in the Library of the House. A table is, however, provided for the Member's convenience.

It should be noted that the data provided on arrests covers arrests for notifiable offences only, which account for only a proportion of arrests made by police officers. Information on all arrests is not collected centrally.

Number of arrests for notifiable offences and officer strength 1999-2000 to 2007-08

Year[1]	*Number of arrests for notifiable offences*[2]	*Number of police officers*[3]	*Number of arrests for notifiable offences per police officer*
1999-2000	1,277,900	124,170	10.3
2000-01	1,264,200	125,682	10.1
2001-02	1,271,900	129,603	9.8
2002-03	1,313,100	133,366	9.8
2003-04	1,330,400	139,200	9.6
2004-05	1,353,400	141,230	9.6
2005-06	1,429,800	141,381	10.1
2006-07	1,482,200	140,514	10.5
2007-08	1,475,300	140,230	10.5

[1] Arrests data are not available prior to 1999-2000. Data for arrests in 2008-09 will be published in April 2010.

[2] The Home Office Arrests collection only covers arrests for notifiable offences only, data on arrests for non-notifiable offences are not reported to the Home Office. Data are rounded to the nearest hundred.

[3] Full-time equivalent officer strength figures are provided, including officers on central service secondments. In order to make like-for-like comparisons with earlier years data excludes officers on career breaks, maternity and paternity leave. Strength at the end of each given financial year is provided.

Asylum

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applicants for leave to remain have been awaiting a decision for *(a)* up to six months, *(b)* up to one year, *(c)* up to two years, *(d)* up to three years and *(e)* more than three years. [309963]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency works to agreed service standards. The information requested, expressed as a percentage of cases which met the service standard, is as follows:

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Charged applications			
20 working days (target 70 per cent.)	69.0	70.2	40.2
70 working days (target 90 per cent.)	90.0	94.7	88.7
PEO in 24 hr (target 90 per cent.)	93.0	90.0	93.0
Non-charged applications			
20 working days (target 70 per cent.)	46.0	89.9	35.0
70 working days (target 90 per cent.)	82.0	95.5	84.8
PEO in 24 hr (target 90 per cent.)	88.0	n/a	n/a

Note:
These data are not provided under National Statistics protocols. They have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what avenues and procedures are available to hon. Members wishing to make representations to decision-makers in the UK Border Agency on longstanding asylum cases. [313630]

Alan Johnson: Members of Parliament may make representations to the UK Border Agency on the handling of cases in the following ways: they may write in to the Agency or contact the MP's Enquiry Line or their MP Account Manager and can track the progress of their letters online.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps he has taken to reduce the number of outstanding asylum applications; how many staff have been assigned to this task in the last three months; and if he will make a statement. [314335]

Mr. Woolas: In the last three months there have been around 1,000 members of staff working within the Case Resolution Directorate. I refer to paragraph 15 of Lin Homer's letter to the Home Affairs Select Committee dated 19 October 2009 for our most recent update on progress. Lin Homer will provide a further update to the Committee in February 2010.

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to enable hon. Members to present information to the UK Border Agency on behalf of an asylum applicant in circumstances in which the applicant is unable to provide such information in person. [314407]

Alan Johnson: Members of Parliament may make representations to the UK Border Agency about the handling of asylum applications on behalf of the applicant by writing to the UK Border Agency or by contacting the UK Border Agency MPs' Enquiry Line or their MP Account Manager.

However, MPs are not able to make initial asylum applications on behalf of their constituents and, since the introduction of the requirement to make further representations on asylum claims in person in October 2009, neither are MPs able to submit further submissions on behalf of their constituents, although they can, of course, make representations.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of interviews held with asylum seekers by UK Border Agency staff were *(a)* video and *(b)* audio recorded in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [316215]

Mr. Woolas: Asylum interviews are not routinely recorded. In normal circumstances caseowners conducting asylum interviews take a verbatim handwritten record of the interview which is made available to the applicant and their representative. However, where an applicant or their representative asks for their interview to be audio recorded, it is UKBA policy to comply with that request in addition to the provision of a hand written verbatim record.

There is no central record of the number of cases that are recorded.

No asylum interviews are video recorded.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of interviews held with asylum seekers by UK Border Agency staff in Cardiff were *(a)* video and *(b)* audio recorded in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [316334]

Mr. Woolas: There is no facility within the UK Border Agency's office in Cardiff for the video recording of interviews with asylum seekers. While there is no legal requirement for such interviews to be recorded by means of audio, where a request to do so is made either by the applicant or their legal representative it is the practice of the UK Border Agency to comply with the request. This is in addition to the provision of a handwritten verbatim record.

Asylum: Compensation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department paid in compensation to the families of asylum seekers *(a)* in total and *(b)* in respect of unlawful detention in each of the last five years. [317367]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office prepares its accounts in accordance with UK GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) adapted for the public sector in accordance with guidance issued by HM Treasury.

The information is not collated in the way requested.

Asylum: Detainees

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times on average a failed asylum seeker was transferred between detention centres prior to removal or deportation in the latest period for which figures are available. [317829]

Alan Johnson: The information requested could be obtained by undertaking a detailed examination of individual records which would be only at disproportionate cost.

However, detainees are not routinely moved between centres without an operational reason. This is normally to ensure occupancy levels of the bed space is maximised, to re-position detainees close to airports in preparation for their removal from the UK, to attend court hearings, medical appointments or for an interview.

Asylum: Finance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers received section 4 support in each region in each quarter since 1 April 2007. [313899]

Mr. Woolas: Information on section 4 support is published annually and quarterly in the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom bulletin which is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

We do not publish quarterly statistics by region, but we do hold the data for internal management use. The internal management data do not undergo the same quality assurance processes as published statistics. The following data are provisional and subject to change. Consequently the regional data when totalled are slightly different to the equivalent available published data. It should also be noted that the data relate to numbers that were in receipt of support as at the dates shown and not the total number that received support.

UK Border Agency region	*2 July 2007**	*1 October 2007**	*31 December 2007**	*31 March 2008*	*30 June 2008*	*6 October 2008*	*29 December 2008*	*5 April 2009*	*29 June 2009*	*28 September 2009*
London and South East	1,546	1,453	1,249	844	527	498	467	436	418	358
Midlands and East	2,791	3,082	2,462	2,602	2,855	3,115	3,351	3,657	3,886	4,100
North East Yorkshire and the Humber	2,673	2,743	2,888	3,092	3,339	3,443	3,435	3,593	3,740	3,912
North West	1,382	1,508	1,467	1,643	1,699	1,782	1,990	1,667	1,742	1,908
Scotland and Northern Ireland	372	412	435	486	520	604	590	704	830	898
Wales and South West	735	825	860	755	780	818	908	822	863	923

The data from April 2007 to July 2007 were previously recorded on a different system and subsequently migrated over. We are therefore not satisfied that these figures are sufficiently robust for release and have been omitted.

Asylum: Housing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1529W, on "Asylum: Housing", how much has been spent on each of the 30 contracts for providing housing for asylum seekers. [311730]

Mr. Woolas: The following table details expenditure from the onset of contracts in 2006 until 29 November 2009. The total figures have been taken from internal management information and the figures for provider spend have not been specifically audited independently. Figures have been rounded to one decimal point. Four of the contracts are no longer operational.

Accommodation costs 2006-09

Supplier	*Total (£ million)*
Angel Group (NE)	14.9
Angel Group (Scotland)	26.2
Angel Group (Y and H)	46.2
Astonbrook (SW)	6.1
Astonbrook Housing Ass(Wales)	6.0
Astonbrook Housing Ass(WM)	15.9
Cardiff CC (Wales)	14.5
Clearsprings (EofE)	8.2
Clearsprings (LDN)	27.4
Clearsprings (SE)	8.8
Clearsprings (SW)	18.0
Clearsprings (Wales)	19.2
North West Consortium	36.9
West Midlands Consortium	28.7
Y and H Consortium	72.0
Glasgow City Council	51.1
Happy Homes UK Limited	37.3
Jomast	6.0
Kimberly Group	14.2
Liverpool City Council	14.3
NECARS	38.6
NIHE	2.7
Nottingham City Council	19.0
Priority Properties (EM)	10.2
Priority Properties (NW)	20.5
Priority Properties (WM)	27.9
Priority Properties (Y and H)	10.5
Refugee HA Ltd	10.9
Swansea City Council	3.5
United Property MGMT (LDN)	19.5

Accommodation costs 2006-09

Supplier	Total (£ million)
United Property MGMT (NW)	26.4
United Property MGMT (WM)	41.7
United Property MGMT (Y&H)	25.8
YMCA Glasgow (Scotland)	13.8

Additional payments of £3.6 million and £2.0 million were paid to Angel and Clearsprings respectively for the provision of Section 4 accommodation spread between their regional contracts.

Borders: Personal Records

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of passenger movements were tracked by the e-Borders Programme in each month of *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [306316]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* The e-Borders programme formally commenced in May 2009 and the current figure (when annualised) shows that we are now tracking over 100 million passenger movements through the UK border. This represents 45 to 50 per cent. of all passenger movements into and out of the UK (pending formal verification by statisticians).

Percentage figures for passenger movements were not recorded during the period in question, however the following tables show total numbers of passenger movements tracked for each month over the years 2007-09. These include the figures prior to May 2009, when the pilot project (Semaphore) was under development and testing.

2007 Project Semaphore

	Total passenger movements
January	1,664,301
February	1,365,681
March	1,546,419
April	1,667,886
May	2,168,590
June	1,970,614
July	2,134,620
August	2,971,664
September	2,363,670
October	3,047,213
November	2,180,352
December	2,354,641
Total	25,435,620

2008 Project Semaphore

	Total passenger movements
January	2,795,104
February	2,256,904
March	2,595,127
April	3,276,999
May	2,587,554
June	2,838,955
July	3,875,956
August	3,101,125
September	2,706,082
October	3,110,224
November	2,110,082
December	2,822,786
Total	34,096,898

2009 Semaphore/e-borders

	Total passenger movements
January	1,970,860
February	1,930,528
March	3,213,046
April	2,960,390
May[1]	4,562,409
June	6,346,031
July	7,271,862
August	9,770,483
September	7,340,892
October	7,029,099
November	7,348,671
December	6,504,617
Total	66,248948

[1] e-Borders went live on 15 May 2009

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department plans to launch its 12-week consultation on the UK Border Agency's "Authority To Carry" scheme. [312911]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have committed to a full consultation period on the introduction of an Authority To Carry (ATC) scheme. This will be in advance of introducing regulations for approval, by each House of Parliament, on how any scheme would operate. No decisions have been made as to when this might take place.

In 2011, as part of the wider rollout of e-Borders, the capability to support a manual ATC process is expected to be delivered.

British Nationality: Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the Nationality Checking Service to be available in Northern Ireland. [318063]

Mr. Woolas: Nationality Checking Service is undertaken by local authorities on a voluntary basis. To date, no local authority in Northern Ireland has opted to provide the service and when they do so is a matter for them.

Burglary

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested for, *(b)* charged with and *(c)* convicted of aggravated burglary in (i) the Ribble Valley, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) England and Wales in each of the last five years. [315457]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 4 February 2010]:* The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

From these data it is not possible to separate specific offences therefore data on arrests for aggravated burglary cannot be provided.

Figures provided by the Ministry of Justice, showing the number of persons prosecuted and convicted for aggravated burglary offences in Lancashire, and England and Wales 2004 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Figures for Ribble Valley are not separately identifiable from the data on prosecutions reported to the Ministry of Justice.

It is not possible to separately identify aggravated burglary from the information on arrests reported to the Home Office.

Persons prosecuted and convicted for aggravated burglary offences 2004 to 2008[1, 3]

	Prosecuted					Convicted at all courts				
	2004	2005	2006	2007[2]	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007[2]	2008
Lancashire										
Aggravated burglary in a dwelling	30	51	51	28	52	4	10	15	15	15
Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling	1	3	0	4	—	—	1	—	—	2
England and Wales										
Aggravated burglary in a dwelling	900	929	817	734	927	204	210	230	236	275
Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling	143	80	65	67	64	20	27	18	30	17

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] Excludes prosecutions and convictions data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

[3] The data are on principal offence basis.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Burglary: Sussex

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of burglary were recorded in each police division in Sussex in each year since 2005. [315766]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information is given in the table. With effect from 2006-07, the divisions of East Downs and Hastings and Rother were combined to form East Sussex division.

Offences of burglary recorded by police divisions in Sussex

Number of offences

Police division	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Brighton and Hove	2,836	2,307	2,269	2,273
East Downs	2,716	n/a	n/a	n/a
East Sussex	n/a	4,247	3,384	3,461
Gatwick	35	20	12	24
Hastings and Rother	2,060	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Downs	2,587	2,360	2,296	2,198
West Downs	3,198	3,207	3,172	2,871
Total	13,432	12,141	11,133	10,827

n/a = Not applicable

Business: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make it his policy to extend to small businesses in Essex the fund to provide grants to help small retailers combat crime affecting their businesses; and if he will make a statement. [316920]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The £5 million Small Retailers' Capital Grants fund was made available for 2009-10 to provide physical crime reduction measures for small independent shops in 50 priority areas, to help reduce incidents of shoplifting and other crimes against retailers.

There are currently no plans to extend the availability to other areas, but through the National Retail Crime Steering Group (NRCSG)'s Action Plan, we are taking action that will help to tackle retail crime in every area.

The NRCSG was set up by the Home Office in partnership with the British Retail Consortium and it provides a forum for Government, law enforcement agencies and retailers' representatives such as the Association of Convenience Stores and Federation of Small Businesses to discuss and devise action to tackle crimes of concern to retailers.

Cocaine

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information his Department holds on changes in the pattern of cocaine use in the last 10 years. [317554]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The most reliable measure of the prevalence of use of drugs is the British Crime Survey (BCS). In 2008/09, the latest full year for which data are available, the proportion of respondents aged 16 to 59 reporting the use of cocaine on at least one occasion in the last year was 3.0 per cent. For cocaine powder, the figure was 3.0 per cent. and for crack cocaine 0.1 per cent.

Data from the 1998 BCS show that 1.3 per cent. of respondents reported the use of cocaine in the last year (1.2 per cent. cocaine powder; 0.1 per cent. crack cocaine).

Following sharp increases in cocaine use recorded during the late 1990s, the level of use has remained broadly stable since 2000, although the rate of increase between 2007-08 and 2008-09 is statistically significant.

Crime

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) fixed penalty notices, (b) conditional cautions and (c) public disorder notices were issued in England and Wales in each year since 2005. [317275]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information on the number of fixed penalty notices for motoring offences issued from 2005 to 2007 can be found in table A. Data on fixed penalty notices for 2008 are scheduled to be published on 15 April 2010.

Information provided by the Ministry of Justice, on the number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued in England and Wales 2005 to 2008 can be viewed in table B.

Data on conditional cautions are not available as they are not separately identified in the data on cautions reported to the Ministry of Justice.

Table A: Number of fixed penalty notices issued for motoring offences, England and Wales 2005-07[1]

	Number of fixed penalty notices issued
2005	3,203,000
2006	3,018,000
2007	2,627,000

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest thousand

Table B: Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued to offenders of ages 16 and over in England and Wales, 2005-08[1]

	Total PNDs issued
2005	146,491
2006	201,197
2007	207,544
2008	176,164

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] PNDs were rolled out nationally on 1 April 2004.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice Ref: 071-10

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the average *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of crimes committed by an offender in the geographical area within 20 miles of the home address of that offender in the last 12 months. [illegible]

Mr. Alan Campbell: No estimates have been made centrally about crimes committed in relation to addresses of offenders.

Crime Prevention

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research he has undertaken on the efficacy of crime prevention measures in respect of persons who have an acquired brain injury; and if he will make a statement. [311092]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* The Home Office has not commissioned any research into this topic.

Crime Prevention: Expenditure

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on national awareness campaigns relating to *(a)* gang crime, *(b)* gun crime and *(c)* terrorism in each of the last five years. [315642]

Alan Johnson: In the last five years the Home Office has spent no money on national awareness campaigns relating to *(a)* gang crime, *(b)* gun crime and *(c)* terrorism. Spending on awareness raising campaigns has been focused at a local and regional level.

In September 2008 the Home Office produced the leaflet "You and Your Child—Advice for Parents on Gangs", this was a regional communication only although was made available on the Direct.gov website.

The Home Office has funded a national awareness campaign around the possession of knives (as opposed to gangs or guns) with the message 'It doesn't have to happen'. Viral adverts online and on mobiles have received 11 million views.

In addition, billboards were displayed in 85 community sites across the country and reached millions of 10 to 16-year-olds. In November, 'It Doesn't Have To Happen' was awarded the best public sector and charity campaign at the prestigious Campaign 2009 Media Awards.

In addition, through the Tackling Violence Action Plan, the Home Office has provided funding to the third sector organisation 'Be Safe'. 'Be Safe' undertakes weapons awareness workshops with young people to raise awareness of the consequences of carrying weapons, particularly knives.

Crime: Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the level of recorded crime was in Hounslow constabulary area in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available; [316691]

(2) how many *(a)* recorded crimes, *(b)* recorded violent crimes, *(c)* burglaries and *(d)* vehicle thefts there were in Feltham and Heston in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest year for which information is available. [316702]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Recorded crime data are not collected specifically at constituency level and data are therefore not available for Feltham and Heston. The available data cover the most appropriate Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area, which is Hounslow.

Since CDRP data are only available from 1999-2000 onwards, figures for 1997 cannot be provided. Data for Hounslow for 2008-09 are given in the table.

Selected offences recorded by the police in Hounslow 2008-09

Offence	Number of offences
Total recorded crime	23,745
Violence against the person	5,550
Burglary	2,593
Of which:	
Domestic burglary	1,770
Other burglary	823
Vehicle thefts	2,894
Of which:	
Theft of a vehicle	812
Theft from a vehicle	2,082

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on programmes to tackle the misuse of drugs in Feltham and Heston in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* 2008-09. [316700]

Mr. Alan Campbell: In 2008-09, the Home Office provided funding of £806,158 to Hounslow Drug Action Team through the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) Main Grant. The constituency for Feltham and Heston comes under the London borough of Hounslow. DIP also made an allocation of £6.4 million to the Metropolitan Police Service for drug testing in 2008-09. Some of the £6.4 million would have been used to fund drug testing in the borough of Hounslow; the level of resource provided to Hounslow was decided centrally by the Metropolitan Service.

DIP is a key part of the Government's strategy for tackling drugs and reducing crime. The programme is delivered locally via drug action teams using integrated teams known as criminal justice integrated teams supported by regional Government office leads and the National Treatment Agency. Using a case management approach they aim to offer access to treatment and support.

A number of specific and individual Home Office grants have been combined into area-based grant (ABG), which is allocated to local authorities on a three-year basis to maximise stability and certainty. The receiving authorities have flexibility to use ABG as they see fit to deliver local, regional and national priorities in their respective areas.

Funding data for 1997-98 are not readily available.

Crime: Statistics

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the methodology used in the compilation of national crime statistics has been changed or redefined since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [317276]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) underpin the standards for the recording and counting of notifiable offences recorded by police forces in England and Wales (known as 'recorded crime').

There have been two major changes to the methodology used for the compilation of crime statistics since 1997. In April 1998 the HOCR were amended to count crimes on a per victim rather than per offence basis, with also significant extension of the coverage of offences included in the notifiable list.

In April 2002 the HOCR were revised to take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) which was adopted with the aim of recording crime in a more victim-focused way and maintaining greater consistency between police forces in the recording of crime. The change meant that where a crime is reported by a victim to the police it will be recorded unless there is credible evidence to the contrary.

Crimes of Violence

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes against the person have been recorded by police forces in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [317960]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) was introduced in April 2002 and figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

The requested data for 1999-2000 to 2001-02 are provided in table A and those for 2002-03 to 2008-09 are provided in table B.

Table A: Recorded violence against the person offences, 1999-2000 to 2001-02

	Total violence against the person offences
1999-2000	581,034
2000-01	600,913
2001-02	650,326

Table B: Recorded violence against the person offences, 2002-03 to 2008-09

	Total violence against the person offences
2002-03[1] [2]	845,078
2003-04	967,228
2004-05	1,048,095
2005-06	1,059,583
2006-07	1,046,167
2007-08	961,099
2008-09[3]	903,442

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

[2] Includes the British Transport police from 2002-03 onwards.

[3] As in previous years, police figures for the latest year in this table and elsewhere remain subject to change as forces continue to submit further data (e.g. Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary is conducting a quality assurance exercise of all forces' recording of most serious violence offences which may prompt further revisions).

Crimes of Violence: North East

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports under each category of violent crime have been made in each *(a)* local authority area in Tyne and Wear and *(b)* police authority in the North East since April 2005; what changes have been made to the definitions of each category in that period; and what discretion police forces have in respect of the categorisation of such crimes. [317993]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The term 'violent crime' is no longer used. Data are supplied for violence against the person offences. The number of offences recorded by police forces in the North East and for the local authorities of Tyne and Wear for 2005-06 to 200-09 are shown in Tables A to H placed in the House Library.

The police record offences following the guidance provided by the Home Office Counting Rules. These provide a national standard for the recording and counting of notifiable offences recorded by police forces in England and Wales and help maintain a greater consistency between police forces in the recording of crime. In April 2002 the National Crime Recording Standard principles were introduced so that when a victim reported a crime the police had to record it unless there were credible evidence to the contrary. This removed significant discretion that had previously applied in police recording of crimes.

In each police force, a Force Crime Registrar (FCR) is responsible for deciding to which offence a particular crime should be recorded. These FCRs, along with representatives of the Home Office, ACPO and HMIC meet regularly to discuss and review the counting rules. These rules are designed to ensure that each police force records crime in a way comparable to other forces.

The counting rules, and changes to definitions can be viewed at the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/countrules.html

There have been changes to some of the classifications for violence against the person offences between 2005-06 and 2008-09, which are outlined below. While these changes can affect the number of offences recorded between offence types, they do not affect the total figures for violence against the person offences.

Offence classifications 5A (inflicting grievous bodily harm with intent), 5B (use of substance or object to endanger life) and 5C (possession of items to endanger life) were introduced from 1 April 2008 and replace classification five (more serious wounding or other act endangering life). Classification 5A was influenced by a clarification in recording rules that had the effect of significantly increasing levels of recording in some forces. More information on this is given in Volume 2 to Crime in England and Wales 2008/09 at the following link.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1109vol2.pdf

Offence classifications 8F (inflicting grievous bodily harm without intent), 8G (actual bodily harm and other injury), 8H (racially or religiously aggravated inflicting GBH without intent), 8J (racially or religiously aggravated ABH or other injury) and 8K (poisoning or female genital mutilation) were introduced from 1 April 2008 and had previously been recorded as part of classifications 8A (less serious wounding) or 8D (racially or religiously aggravated less serious wounding).

Offence classifications 3A (conspiracy to murder) and 3B (threats to kill) were introduced from 1 April 2008 and had previously been recorded as classification 3 (threat or conspiracy to murder).

Offence classifications 10A (possession of firearms with intent), 10C (possession of other weapons) and 10D (possession of article with blade or point) were introduced from one April 2008 and had previously been recorded as classification 8B (possession of weapons).

Offence classifications 8L (harassment) and 9A (public fear, alarm or distress) were introduced from 1 April 2008 and had previously been recorded as classification 8C (harassment/public fear, alarm or distress).

Offence classifications 8M (racially or religiously aggravated harassment) and 9B (racially or religiously aggravated public fear, alarm or distress) were introduced from 1 April 2008 and had previously been recorded as classification 8E (racially or religiously aggravated harassment/public fear, alarm or distress).

Crimes of Violence: Police Cautions

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what proportion of incidents of *(a)* rape and *(b)* violence against the person reported in the last five years a caution was issued. [316491]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The requested data for the number of incidents of rape and violence against the person for each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09 are provided by the Ministry of Justice and shown in Tables A (rape offences) and B (violence against the person offences).

The number of offenders cautioned for offences of rape and violence against the person in England and Wales from 2004 to 2008 (latest available) are given in Tables A1 and B1, respectively.

Cautions and court proceedings data for 2009 are expected to be published in the autumn, 2010.

Table A: Reported offences for rape[1], 2004-05 to 2008-09

	Total number
2004-05	14,013
2005-06	14,443
2006-07	13,774
2007-08	12,639
2008-09	13,133

[1] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 introduced in May 2004 altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences. A small number of offences continue to be recorded relating to offences repealed by the Act, while these may continue to be legitimately recorded for offences prior to May 2004 it is also possible that some may have been recorded in these old categories in error, so recent changes based on small numbers should be interpreted with caution

Table A1: Cautions issued for offences of rape, England and Wales 2004 to 2008[1, 2, 3]

	Total number
2004	40
2005	22
2006	24
2007	34
2008	36

[1] The cautions statistics in table A1 relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Table B: Reported violence against the person offences, 2004-05 to 2008-09

	Total number
2004-05	1,048,095
2005-06	1,059,585
2006-07	1,0[illegible],168
2007-08	[illegible]61,175
2008-09	903,993

Table B1: Cautions issued for violence against the person offences, England and Wales 2004 to 2008[1, 2, 3]

	Total number
2004	36,610
2005	51,020
2006	57,273
2007	52,334
2008	37,613

[1] The cautions statistics given in table B1 relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Dangerous Dogs

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints have been made to the police in each police authority area in respect of attacks by dogs in each of the last five years; how many such complaints resulted in prosecutions; and if he will make a statement. [316414]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not collected centrally as there is no requirement for police forces to report attacks by dogs to the Home Office.

The police are required to notify the Home Office of offences recorded under sections 3(1) and 3(3) of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. These offences relate to an owner or person in charge allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person or allowing a dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person. However, such offences would be included in the offence classification 'Actual bodily harm and other injury' and cannot be separately identified from other offences recorded under that classification.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any written instructions have been provided to his Department's Accounting Officer in accordance with paragraph 5.5 of the Ministerial Code since May 1997. [315317]

Mr. Woolas: The Department has not received any written instructions in respect of paragraph 5.5 of the Ministerial Code since May 1997.

Departmental Billing

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the average length of time taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to pay invoices from (i) small and medium-sized enterprises and (ii) all creditors in the last 12 months. [315134]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office implemented the Prime Minister's commitment to pay all small and medium enterprises (SMEs) within 10 days in October 2008.

The Home Office has invested significantly in its people with the creation of a professional Shared Service Centre and Procurement Centre of Excellence complemented by the creation of new processes and upgraded Procure to Pay systems. The Department has put a firm focus on paying its suppliers on time on receipt of a compliant invoice. It has worked closely with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills reporting on both its legislative obligations of 30 days as well as the 10 day PM's commitment for SMEs.

The Home Office has recently converted all of its suppliers to 10-day payment terms and will be reporting on this from 1 February 2010.

The latest Home Office performance information for paying the invoices of all creditors within 30 days and paying SME compliant invoices within 10 days in January 2010 is shown in the following table:

Table 1. The Home Office performance of paying total number of invoices within 30 days and SME compliant invoices within 10 days for January 2010

	Home Office and UKBA
Total number of all invoices paid	4,512
Percentage of total number of all invoices paid within 30 days	96
Number of SMEs' compliant invoices paid within 10 days	1,080
Percentage of SMEs' compliant invoices paid with 10 days	99

The latest available performance information from the Criminal Records Bureau for paying the invoices of all creditors and SME compliant invoices within 10 days in December 2009 is shown in the following table:

Table 2. CRB performance of paying invoices within 10 days for December 2009

Month	Total number of all invoices paid	Percentage of total number of all invoices paid within 10 days	Number of SMEs' compliant invoices paid within 10 days	Percentage of SMEs' compliant invoices paid within 10 days
January 2010	264	39	109	89

Performance information from the Identity and Passport Service is that between April 2009 and January 2010 SME compliant invoices were on average paid within 12 days and the invoices of all remaining creditors were on average paid within 19 days.

Departmental Drinking Water

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent on bottled drinking water in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [313184]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The requested information cannot be obtained, without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Department is committed to reducing the environmental impact of its official activities. The Department's policy is not to supply bottled water unless it is essential for health and safety reasons.

Departmental Employment Agencies

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many job vacancies in his Department and its agencies were filled through the use of external recruitment companies in the latest year for which figures are available. [314769]

Mr. Woolas: During the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009, the Home Office and its agencies (the UK Border Agency, the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau) filled 461 vacancies with permanent staff, fixed term appointments or casuals recruited through the use of external recruitment companies.

Of these 461 vacancies, 318 were Immigration caseworker jobs that arose in the UK Border Agency as a result of the move to regionalise case working and move jobs outside London, in line with the recommendation of the Gershon review.

The total of 461 vacancies filled through the use of external recruitment companies in 2008-09 represents less than 10 per cent. of the overall total number of advertised vacancies filled with permanent staff, fixed term appointments and casuals within the Home Office and its agencies during that period. The vast majority of vacancies were, therefore, filled through internal and cross-Government trawls.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department and its agencies spent on external recruitment companies in the latest year for which figures are available. [314770]

Mr. Woolas: The information held centrally by Home Office on recruitment is not broken down in sufficient detail to identify expenditure on external recruitment companies. The requested information could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Empty Property

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Harrogate and Knaresborough of 18 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 29W, on departmental buildings, what the *(a)* book value and *(b)* estimated annual rental value is of the vacant residential property owned by his Department. [315967]

Mr. Woolas: Since my Department is in the process of selling vacant residential property, no estimates have been made of potential rental value. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 715W on the property's book value.

Departmental Energy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the estimated *(a)* amount and *(b)* cost was of energy used in his Department and its agencies in each year since 1997; what proportion of the energy used was generated from renewable sources in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [317204]

Mr. Woolas: Central Government Departments and their Executive agencies report performance data on the energy consumed and amount sourced from renewable sources annually as part of the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets. The latest assessment of the Department's performance against these targets was published by the Sustainable Development Commission on 18 December 2009

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/soge2009/

The Department's structure and its estate has changed considerably since 1997 and it does not hold comprehensive information for the last 13 years, covering *(a)* amount and *(b)* cost of the total energy consumed, and the proportion sourced from renewable sources for the Home Office estate and its agencies.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the proportion of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies managed out in the last five years who remain working in the public sector. [313853]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not held centrally.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* mobile telephones and *(b)* Blackberrys were provided to (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department in 2009; and at what cost to the public purse. [313168]

Mr. Woolas: Blackberrys are issued to all Ministers and special advisers of the Home Department. A total of 11 Blackberrys were issued in 2009.

It is not possible ascertain total expenditure without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in each of the last five years for which information is available; what proportion of the total workforce they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [300301]

Mr. Woolas: Non-consolidated performance payments are an integral element of the staff reward package in the Home Office. They have to be re-earned each year and do not add to future pay bill and pensions costs.

The Home Office (including the United Kingdom Border Agency), as part of its annual pay arrangements, pays end-of-year non-consolidated performance-related payments to up to 35 per cent. of its staff. There are separate arrangements for the Department's senior staff, which are set by the Prime Minister for the whole senior civil service, following independent advice from the Senior Salaries Review Body.

In the financial years for which information is available the total amount paid in end-of-year payments, the average and the largest single payments were:

	Number of staff in post	*Total number [illegible] staff in receipt*	*Largest single award (£000)*	*Total paid (£ million)*	*Total salary bill for year (£ million)*	*Average payment (£)*	*Payments as of salary bill*
2005-06	22,670	4,785	15	4.28	752	894	0.56
2006-07	21,630	5,097	15	4.45	723	873	0.61
2007-08	22,380	5,647	20	4.48	710	793	0.63
2008-09	21,460	6,164	22	4.75	791	771	0.60
2009-10	21,360	6,081	15	5.69	815	935	0.69

Notes:

1. The 2008-09 figure is the figure at end September 2008.
2. The 2009-10 figure is the Home Office internal headcount at 31 July 2008.
3. The 2009-10 salary figure is the current year end estimate.

Source:

The staff in pos figures come from ONS Headcount statistics.

It is also possible to give one-off special payments to members of staff in-year to reward exceptional achievements on a project or programme. In 2007, 3,702 staff received such a payment at a total cost of

£2.56 million: in 2008, 2,863 staff received such a payment at a cost of £1.16 million. Figures for 2009-10 are not yet available. Figures for previous years cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

Deportation: Offenders

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners convicted of an offence of *(a)* illegal gun possession and *(b)* drug dealing have been deported to their country of origin in each year since 1998. [314741]

Alan Johnson: The UK Border Agency is committed to ensuring that we remove those foreign nationals who pose a risk of harm to our society. We are targeting the most harmful first and any non-EEA national who receives a custodial sentence of 12 months or more is now subject to automatic deportation proceedings. In addition any non-EEA national who goes to prison for serious drug and gun offences no matter how long their sentence, will face deportation action as well as those, no matter the type of crime, who have received several custodial sentences totalling 12 months or more. EEA nationals convicted of gun or drugs offences will face deportation action if they are sentenced to 12 months or more in prison.

In her letter to the Home Affairs Committee in July 2009 the chief executive stated that of the 5,400 foreign criminals removed or deported in 2008, 1,600 were drug offenders; more than 550 were convicted of the production or supply of drugs, over 350 convicted of possession with intent to supply drugs and over 600 were convicted of the importation of drugs. In a letter of October 2009 she further advised that of the 2,560 foreign criminals removed in quarters 1 to 2 of 2009, 680 drug offenders removed; 316 were convicted of the production or supply of drugs, over 140 convicted of possession with intent to supply drugs, and over 200 were convicted of the importation of drugs. The UK Border Agency does not routinely record the number of foreign nationals removed following a conviction for 'illegal gun possession'. Figures for 1998 to 2007 are not available.

The chief executive is due to write to the Committee again in February. Copies of the letter will be available in the Library of the House.

Deportation: Sri Lanka

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Sri Lankan citizens have been deported since 1 May 2009; and if he will make a statement. [317335]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of nationals of Sri Lanka removed or departed voluntarily from May 2009 to September 2009, by type of departure.

Figures for the fourth quarter of 2009 will be published on 25 February 2010.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Removals and voluntary departures[1], by type, nationals of Sri Lanka, May 2009 to September 2009

						Number of departures[2]
	May 2009[3]	*June 2009[3]*	*July 2009[3]*	*August 2009[3]*	*September 2009[3]*	*Total[1]*
Removals and voluntary departures, nationals of Sri Lanka	50	45	55	60	40	250
Of which:						
Enforced removals and notified voluntary departures	15	10	20	15	10	70
Assisted voluntary returns[4]	10	15	15	10	15	65
Other voluntary departures	5	-	10	15	5	40
Non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed[5]	20	20	10	20	10	75

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 (- = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding

[2] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

[3] Provisional figures. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

[4] Persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return programmes run by the International Organization for Migration. May include some on-entry cases and some cases where enforcement action has been initiated.

[5] Figures include persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls, removals performed by Immigration Officers at ports using enforcement powers and since 2005 a small number of cases who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

Detainees: Sri Lanka

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Sri Lankan citizens are being held in detention in *(a)* prison and *(b)* immigration removal centres. [317334]

Mr. Woolas: As at 18 December 2009 there were 152 Sri Lankans in prison establishments. This includes those held under the Immigration Act 1971 (including those in the immigration removal centres Dover, Haslar and Lindholme) as well as those held on remand or serving custodial sentences. This figure was published in the December 2009 monthly population bulletin on the HM Prison Service website:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/resourcecentre/publicationsdocuments/index.asp?cat=85

As at 30 September 2009 there were 45 Sri Lankans detained in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act Powers. Of these, 20 were detained in Dover, Haslar and Lindholme. These figures have been rounded to the nearest five consistent with the usual publication practice. Information on persons detained under Immigration Act powers is published in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom—3rd Quarter 2009 publication which is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

The latest information for 31 December 2009 will be published on the 25 February 2010.

DNA: Databases

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many criminals convicted before the creation of the National DNA Database had given a DNA sample to police. [313456]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National DNA Database (NDNAD) does not contain information about criminal records, as this is not necessary for its function of matching DNA from crime scenes with DNA from individuals. Criminal record information is held on the Police National Computer (PNC). The first conviction in a case where DNA profiling was used occurred in 1988. Between this date and the establishment of the NDNAD in 1995, DNA profiling was applied in a relatively small number of cases. We do not have any records of DNA operations which indicate how many criminals convicted during this period had given a DNA sample.

Data obtained from the PNC on 31 March 2009 indicates that there were 2,312,289 persons with a record on PNC added by an English or Welsh force who had a conviction, caution, reprimand or final warning, but no record on NDNAD. This includes individuals who have records relating to convictions, etc. before 1995.

Breakdowns of the number of persons with a record of a conviction, caution, reprimand or final warning on PNC, which show (a) that the conviction, etc. occurred before 1995, and (b) that the person either does or does not have a record on the NDNAD, could only be produced at disproportionate cost.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people under *(a)* 16, *(b)* 18 and *(c)* 21 years old had their profile stored on the National DNA Database on 1 January 2010. [317152]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The figures given in the table show the number of subject profiles held on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) as at 31 December 2009 for police forces in England and Wales. It is broken down by current age for people aged under 16, under 18 and under 21 years old.

The number of subject profiles is not the same as the number of individuals. A proportion of DNA profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates, that is, a profile for a person has been loaded on more then one occasion (this may be because the person gave different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests, or because of upgrading of profiles). As at 31 December 2009, it was estimated that 13.9 per cent. of profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates. As the replication rate is calculated across the entire database, it is not possible to apply it to the number of profiles in each age group, to provide the number of individuals in that group.

The presence of these replicate profiles on the NDNAD does not impact on the effectiveness and integrity of the database.

The data presented are based on a snapshot of the NDNAD as at 31 December 2009. The data on the NDNAD are constantly changing as records are added and removed, hence the figures are a snapshot of contents at a single point in time. The data are management information and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Subject profiles held on the NDNAD taken by police forces in England and Wales as at 31 December 2009 broken down by current age

Current age	*Number of subject profiles*
Under 16	113,330
Under 18	300,798
Under 21	761,221

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from each ethnic minority had a profile stored on the National DNA Database on 1 January 2010. [317153]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National DNA Database (NDNAD) does not hold self-reported ethnicity data, however, it does hold data on the "ethnic appearance" of persons who have a DNA profile on the database. The ethnic appearance data have six broad ethnic categories plus "unknown". They are based on the judgment of the police officer taking the sample and are recorded for police intelligence purposes to assist in subsequent identification.

The following table shows the number of DNA profiles on the NDNAD added by English and Welsh police forces, broken down by ethnic appearance, as at 31 December 2009. "Unknown" means that no ethnic appearance was recorded by the officer taking the sample.

The number of profiles held is not the same as the number of individuals. This is because some profiles are replicates—i.e. more than one profile is held for one individual. This may occur if, for example, an individual gives different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests. As at 31 December 2009, it was estimated that 13.9 per cent. of the subject profiles held on the entire NDNAD were replicates. As the replication rate is calculated across the entire database, it is not possible to apply it to the number of profiles of each ethnic appearance group to provide the number of individuals in that group.

The data presented are based on a snapshot of the NDNAD as at 31 December 2009. The data on the NDNAD are constantly changing as records are added and removed, hence the figures are a snapshot of contents at a single point in time. The data are management information and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Ethnic appearance	*Subject profiles*
Unknown	278,630
Asian	324,787
Black	449,288
Chinese/Japanese/SE Asian	39,979
Middle Eastern	46,987
White—North European	4,388,870
White—South European	112,695
Total profiles	5,641,236
Total individuals (estimated)	4,857,104

Domestic Violence

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the incidence of domestic violence in England and Wales in each of the last 30 years; if he will make it his policy to record domestic violence incidents as a separate crime category; and if he will make a statement. [317962]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There are two sources of data on domestic violence from the British Crime Survey. Estimates of the number of incidents of domestic violence from the face-to-face section of the survey are available from 1981 to 2008-09 and can be found in this table:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1109tab201.xls

Because of the nature of these offences, more reliable estimates of domestic violence come from the self-completion section of the survey, but these are only available from 2004-05 onwards. We also only report on the prevalence of domestic violence from the self-completion section, not the incidence. Trends in the prevalence of domestic violence from 2004-05 to 2008-09 can be found in Table 3.06 here:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0110chap3.xls

The issue of making domestic violence a criminal offence was discussed during the Safety and Justice consultation which led to the introduction of the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004. The Government believe that the range of existing criminal legislation, coupled with the definition of domestic violence, is sufficient to ensure the maximum discretion in selecting appropriate criminal charges. CPS also flag all domestic violence related crimes.

Driving Under Influence: Young People

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs by 16 to 24-years-olds there were in Milton Keynes in each of the last five years. [313950]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Statistics on the number of offences recorded for 'causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs' are collected however no details are collected on the age of the offender. The offence classifications within the Police Recorded Crime series are defined by statute. No details on the victim or offender are collected unless specified in the wording of the offence classification. There are a number of sexual offences where this applies; ie sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over or rape of a female child under 13.

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 344W, on drugs: crime, what the equivalent figures are for 2008. [315008]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information provided by the Ministry of Justice, showing the number of cautions given for possession of a controlled drug, by class, England and Wales, 1997 to 2008 (latest available), can be viewed in Table 1. The number given for possession with intent to supply can be viewed in Table 2.

Table 1. Number of offenders cautioned for possession of a controlled drug, by class, England and Wales, 1997 to 2008[1,2,3,4]

	Class A	Class B	Class C
1997	3,918	48,728	249
1998	4,130	51,515	242
1999	4,266	42,560	164
2000	4,479	34,595	147
2001	4,583	33,182	108
2002	4,563	38,482	149
2003	4,764	38,845	149
2004	5,576	10,114	14,605
2005	7,431	3,621	20,805
2006	10,139	2,746	21,367
2007	13,536	3,262	22,643
2008	15,004	2,967	25,313

Table 2: Number of offenders cautioned for possession with intent to supply a controlled drug, by class, England and Wales, 1997 to 2008[1,2,3,4]

	Class A	Class B	Class C
1997	79	401	19
1998	88	470	10
1999	91	413	8
2000	139	305	7
2001	136	310	5
2002	132	336	5
2003	129	371	6
2004	137	207	280
2005	189	83	477
2006	247	53	519
2007	234	44	457
2008	141	32	324

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Cannabis was reclassified in January 2004 to a class C drug. From 1997—2004 the class B category includes cannabis; from 2005-08 cannabis is included in class C.

[4] Since April 2004 the police may issue an adult offender with a cannabis warning for simple possession of cannabis.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Entry Clearances

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time was to *(a)* process a visa application and *(b)* despatch an approved passport following approval of a visa in the last year for which figures are available. [315360]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 5 February 2010]:* The global average processing time for all visa applications in calendar year 2009 was 13.6 working days. We are unable to provide an average time for despatching a passport to an applicant following a decision to issue a visa. This information is not available from our central records.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from each country who were classified as having *(a)* low and *(b)* higher level English language skills overstayed in the UK following admittance under tier 4 of the points-based immigration system in the latest period for which figures are available. [316371]

Alan Johnson: The UK Border Agency does not hold records on the level of English language skills held by those granted entry to the country under tier 4 of the points based system. It is the responsibility of the tier 4 sponsor to assess the student's ability to follow a course of study; this includes checking the student's English language ability.

Entry Clearances: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visitors' visas were sponsored by residents of the London Borough of Bexley in the last three years. [317362]

Mr. Woolas: While sponsor details are kept on individual visa application records, we are unable to accurately identify from central records all applications that have been sponsored by residents of any particular borough.

Entry Clearances: Eastern Europe

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa officers were employed in *(a)* Tirana, *(b)* Kiev and *(c)* Chisinau in (i) each of the last three years and (ii) 2010 on the latest date for which figures are available. [318016]

Mr. Woolas: The number of entry clearance officers employed at our visa sections in Tirana, Kiev and Chisinau since 2007 have been as follows:

ECOs	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Tirana	2.0	2.0	2.4	2.4
Kiev	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
Chisinau	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9

Entry Clearances: Families

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for visas for family visitors to the UK have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused in respect of applicants from each (i) African and (ii) Caribbean country in each of the last three years. [308242]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is given in the following table. It is based on nationality, not country and is given for each financial year.

The data are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change.

Financial year	*Group*	*Nationality*	*Applications*	*Issued*	*Refused*	*Resolved*	*Refusal rate*
2006			135,557	81,511	52,710	13,4875	39
	African		127,435	76,616	49,398	126,627	39
		Algeria	4,096	3,440	629	4103	15
		Angola	595	434	152	596	26
		Benin	68	52	16	68	24
		Botswana	89	78	12	91	13
		Burkina	27	13	13	27	44
		Burundi	37	25	12	37	32
		Cameroon	1,603	1,169	420	1,601	26
		Cape Verde	45	36	3	44	7
		Central African Republic	9	10	1	11	9
		Chad	25	16	6	22	27
		Comoros	3	3	0	3	0
		Congo	300	231	70	304	23
		Democratic republic of Congo	1,283	990	287	1,286	22
		Djibouti	45	24	19	43	44
		Egypt	2,683	2,481	179	2,682	7
		Equatorial Guinea	17	14	4	18	22
		Eritrea	286	234	64	303	21
		Ethiopia	887	501	344	857	40
		Gabon	47	40	7	47	15
		Gambia	1,287	797	472	1,278	37
		Ghana	13,333	7,576	6,083	13,740	44
		Guinea	156	95	60	157	38
		Guinea-Bissau	52	41	10	52	19
		Ivory Coast	525	406	115	522	22
		Kenya	5,180	4,527	677	5,216	13
		Lesotho	12	3	9	12	75
		Liberia	87	64	24	90	27

Financial year	*Group*	*Nationality*	*Applications*	*Issued*	*Refused*	*Resolved*	*Refusal rate (%)*
		Libya	2,383	1,988	384	2,385	16
		Madagascar	22	22	0	22	0
		Malawi	819	572	243	819	30
		Mali	37	31	6	37	16
		Mauritania	12	10	2	12	17
		Mauritius	54	40	16	58	28
		Morocco	3,985	3,344	638	4,003	16
		Mozambique	202	149	56	209	27
		Namibia	11	1	8	9	89
		Niger	23	15	7	22	32
		Nigeria	69,030	34,437	33,000	67,603	49
		Rwanda	84	70	20	90	22
		Sao Tome and Principe	33	23	8	33	24
		Senegal	134	113	19	133	14
		Seychelles	1	1	0	1	0
		Sierra Leone	2,362	1,515	795	2,320	34
		Somalia	359	199	158	366	43
		South Africa	536	197	313	520	60
		Sudan	1,594	1,404	153	1,576	10
		Swaziland	29	6	22	28	79
		Tanzania	1,891	1,712	187	1,910	10
		Togo	115	85	30	117	26
		Tunisia	733	644	94	738	13
		Uganda	1,511	1,017	526	1,551	34
		Zambia	1,146	952	171	1,178	15
		Zimbabwe	7,552	4,769	2,855	7,677	37
	Caribbean		8,122	4,895	3,312	8,248	40
		Antigua and Barbuda	1	1	0	1	0
		Bahamas	1	1	0	1	0
		Barbados	10	6	4	10	40
		Cayman Islands	1	1	0	1	0
		Cuba	277	262	12	277	4
		Dominica	10	8	2	11	18
		Dominican Republic	52	48	3	51	6
		Grenada	4	2	3	5	60
		Haiti	25	20	2	22	9
		Honduras	1	0	1	1	100
		Jamaica	7,699	4,510	3,280	7,827	42
		St Lucia	5	4	1	5	20
		St Vincent	2	1	1	2	50
		Trinidad and Tobago	34	31	3	34	9
2007			111,709	73,133	40,723	11,4376	36
	African		105,905	69,015	38,769	108,229	36
		Algeria	4,644	3,855	501	4,390	11
		Angola	697	554	128	685	19
		Benin	71	46	27	74	36
		Botswana	89	62	25	87	29
		Burkina	18	13	5	18	28
		Burundi	38	27	12	39	31
		Cameroon	1,362	1,071	296	1,376	22

Financial year	*Group*	*Nationality*	*Applications*	*Issued*	*Refused*	*Resolved*	*Refusal rate (%)*
		Cape Verde	36	25	10	35	29
		Central African Republic	17	12	5	17	29
		Chad	17	10	11	21	52
		Comoros	5	3	2	5	40
		Congo	258	176	79	257	31
		Democratic republic of Congo	1,194	830	363	1,201	30
		Djibouti	28	19	11	30	37
		Egypt	2,872	2,622	217	2,847	8
		Equatorial Guinea	11	4	6	11	55
		Eritrea	288	186	96	289	33
		Ethiopia	667	460	219	694	32
		Gabon	32	26	6	32	19
		Gambia	1,381	846	510	1,371	37
		Ghana	11,627	6,344	5,194	11,575	45
		Guinea	129	68	53	125	42
		Guinea-Bissau	55	32	21	55	38
		Ivory Coast	531	377	150	529	28
		Kenya	5,006	4,404	568	4,989	11
		Lesotho	12	4	7	11	64
		Liberia	85	58	25	84	30
		Libya	1,918	1,518	368	1,896	19
		Madagascar	17	13	2	16	13
		Malawi	976	690	257	959	27
		Mali	31	23	7	30	23
		Mauritania	6	4	2	6	33
		Mauritius	24	17	6	24	25
		Morocco	2,605	2,311	269	2,602	10
		Mozambique	190	125	60	188	32
		Namibia	10	0	10	10	100
		Niger	14	10	4	14	29
		Nigeria	51,355	30,786	23,396	54,267	43
		Rwanda	107	66	39	105	37
		Sao Tome and Principe	36	18	16	36	44
		Senegal	210	149	56	205	27
		Seychelles	5	2	3	5	60
		Sierra Leone	1,980	1,147	802	1,973	41
		Somalia	303	164	125	297	42
		South Africa	382	131	251	392	64
		Sudan	1,523	1,196	291	1,511	19
		Swaziland	11	4	7	11	64
		Tanzania	1,982	1,574	379	1,971	19
		Togo	91	62	27	90	30
		Tunisia	724	627	88	721	12
		Uganda	1,630	1,135	485	1,629	30
		Zambia	1,297	1,094	191	1,298	15
		Zimbabwe	7,308	4,015	3,081	7,126	43
	Caribbean		5,804	4,118	1,954	6,147	32
		Bahamas	1	0	1	1	100
		Barbados	2	1	0	1	0
		Cuba	282	243	37	282	13
		Dominica	2	1	1	2	50
		Dominican Republic	89	73	13	87	15

Financial year	Group	Nationality	Applications	Issued	Refused	Resolved	Refusal rate (%)
		Grenada	1	1	0	1	0
		Haiti	18	15	3	18	17
		Honduras	1	1	0	1	0
		Jamaica	5,377	3,763	1,891	5,725	33
		St Lucia	4	3	0	3	0
		St Vincent	3	3	0	3	0
		Trinidad and Tobago	24	14	8	23	35
2008			105,206	69,766	34,784	105,182	33
	African		100,472	66,240	33,611	100,466	33
		Algeria	5,813	4,679	1,298	5,996	22
		Angola	831	551	264	829	32
		Benin	86	52	28	84	33
		Botswana	59	24	35	61	57
		Burkina	27	18	7	26	27
		Burundi	50	32	15	47	32
		Cameroon	1,324	964	294	1,281	23
		Cape Verde	50	20	28	48	58
		Central African Republic	15	9	6	15	40
		Chad	22	15	7	22	32
		Comoros	11	4	6	10	60
		Congo	232	136	88	227	39
		Democratic Republic of Congo	1,058	590	455	1,047	43
		Djibouti	43	24	17	41	41
		Egypt	3,119	2,762	263	3,040	9
		Equatorial Guinea	25	13	11	25	44
		Eritrea	268	148	104	258	40
		Ethiopia	765	537	225	766	29
		Gabon	46	28	18	46	39
		Gambia	1,601	868	720	1,599	45
		Ghana	9,688	5,534	4,275	9,896	43
		Guinea	144	67	72	140	51
		Guinea-Bissau	63	19	42	61	69
		Ivory coast	453	314	124	445	28
		Kenya	5,263	4,596	628	5,255	12
		Lesotho	9	4	6	10	60
		Liberia	82	48	31	80	39
		Libya	2,183	1,878	313	2,253	14
		Madagascar	29	27	1	28	4
		Malawi	756	448	301	758	40
		Mali	41	31	11	42	26
		Mauritania	9	4	5	9	56
		Mauritius	69	47	18	67	27
		Morocco	2,375	1,963	320	2,307	14
		Mozambique	197	127	71	199	36
		Namibia	8	2	5	9	56
		Niger	11	5	5	11	45
		Nigeria	44,534	26,491	17,975	44,543	40
		Rwanda	106	68	41	109	38
		Sao Tome and Principe	49	18	28	46	61
		Senegal	305	206	100	307	33
		Seychelles	2	2	0	2	0
		Sierra Leone	1,780	1,200	565	1,782	32

Financial year	Group	Nationality	Applications	Issued	Refused	Resolved	Refusal rate
		Somalia	248	105	146	252	58
		South Africa	3,488	3149	225	3410	7
		Sudan	1,669	1,215	398	1,618	24
		Swaziland	8	2	6	8	75
		Tanzania	1625	1254	322	1,597	20
		Togo	93	60	35	95	37
		Tunisia	667	530	112	644	17
		Uganda	1,915	1,373	556	1,935	29
		Zambia	1,304	1,091	201	1,315	15
		Zimbabwe	5,854	2,888	2,786	5,765	48
	Caribbean		4,734	3,526	1,173	4,716	25
		Antigua and Barbuda	2	1	1	2	50
		Bahamas	2	0	2	2	100
		Barbados	4	3	1	4	25
		Cuba	277	246	29	277	10
		Dominica	2	1	1	2	50
		Dominican Republic	138	113	17	130	13
		Grenada	4	2	2	4	50
		Haiti	23	20	1	21	5
		Honduras	1	0	1	1	100
		Jamaica	4,239	3,128	1,090	4,232	26
		St Kitts and Nevis	2	1	1	2	50
		St Lucia	15	2	13	15	87
		St Vincent	4	2	2	4	50
		Trinidad and Tobago	21	7	12	20	60

Entry Clearances: Fees and Charges

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make it his policy for fees charged for visas to increase in line with inflation. [317562]

Mr. Woolas: Current policy is to set visa fees by balancing a number of complex factors, including inflation along with the cost of processing applications, the importance of attracting certain groups of migrants to the UK, and the value of a successful application in terms of entitlements and benefits to the applicant.

Entry Clearances: Indian Subcontinent

Patrick Hall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time taken between the date of adjudication of an entry clearance case in favour of the applicant and the date of issue of a visa at the British High Commission in *(a)* New Delhi and *(b)* Islamabad was in the latest period for which figures are available. [315147]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The UK Border Agency, however, recently issued its visa sections overseas with a target time of eight weeks to conclude the consideration of visa applications after receiving notification of an allowed appeal. The agency will be monitoring the performance of visa sections against this target.

Entry Clearances: Married People

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the appropriateness of the level of fees for spouse settlement visas; and how much revenue accrued from such fees in each of the last five years. [317560]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency's fees for immigration and nationality are reviewed annually.

The following table shows revenue collected from spousal settlement visas in each of the last five years.

Income from spouse/civil partner visas from 2004-05 to 2008-09

	Income (£000)
2004-05	13,020
2005-06	14,666
2006-07	16,569
2007-08	28,508
2008-09	25,414

Source
Internal management information—International Group

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Patrick Hall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the results of the joint review of student visas by his Department and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to be published. [314673]

Mr. Woolas: The outcome of the review of Tier 4, announced by the Prime Minister on 12 November 2009, were published on Wednesday 10 February 2010.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the economic impact of increasing the minimum level at which non-EU students may come to the UK for study from National Qualifications Framework Level 3 to Level 4. [316912]

Mr. Woolas: The Secretary of State for the Home Department's written ministerial statement of 10 February 2010 provides full details of the recommendations stemming from the Prime Minister's review of tier 4, the student route of the points based system. We will be publishing a full impact assessment on the review in line with implementation.

We are not increasing the minimum level at which non-EU students may come to the UK for study from National Qualifications Framework level 3 to level 4, however, only education providers that qualify as Highly Trusted Sponsors will be able to offer courses at level three to international students.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dependants of those with a *(a)* student visa and *(b)* student visa relating to a course lasting less than six months entered the UK in 2008. [317155]

Mr. Woolas: The available statistics show that 20,300 "dependants of students" (excluding EEA and Swiss nationals) were given leave to enter the United Kingdom, in 2008.

It is not possible to determine, from the systems used to produce these statistics on those given leave to enter the UK, how many of those admitted as "dependants of students" were dependants of students on a course lasting less than six months.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department's written statement of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 58WS contains details of the recommendations stemming from the Prime Minister's review of tier 4, and this statement includes further details of the restrictions we are placing on the dependants of certain students.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the likely effects on student visitors of implementing the changes proposed in the recent review of tier 4 of the points-based immigration system. [317167]

Mr. Woolas: As a result of the changes we are implementing following the review of tier 4, the student tier of the points based system, we expect there to be an increase in the number of student visitor applications, as genuine students wishing to follow lower level courses no longer permitted under tier 4 will be permitted to use the student visitor route instead.

The student visitor category is for short-term, temporary visitors to the UK who intend to complete a course of study in the UK within six months. In order to be eligible, all those seeking entry under this category must have a place on a course of study offered by an education provider which either has a tier 4 sponsor licence, or which is subject to public inspection, or which is accredited by one of the UK Border Agency's approved accreditation bodies.

Student visitors cannot follow a course that contains a work placement, and they are prohibited from taking employment in the UK.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department's written statement of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 58WS contains details of the recommendations stemming from the Prime Minister's review of tier 4.

Firearms

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the number of unlicensed handguns in circulation in *(a)* England and *(b)* the North West; and if he will make a statement. [317549]

Mr. Alan Campbell: These data are not collected centrally. Handguns are prohibited under firearms law and can only be held with the authority of the Secretary of State. Such authority is generally limited to businesses such as arms manufacturers, and is not normally given to individuals. There are some exceptions for certain historic handguns and for certain professions (for example, vets and race starters) which need to use handguns, but they must still be held on a firearms certificate. Unlawful possession of a handgun carries a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment and a minimum of five years.

The National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS) collects intelligence pertaining to the number of known and inferred illegal handguns in the UK, and when necessary these data are shared with the Home Office to inform firearms policy. As these data relate directly to active police operations it is not suitable for the public domain.

Forensic Science Service: Greater London

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with the management of the Forensic Science Service in London on the future of the London site after the expiry of its lease in 2013. [317842]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Discussions between the Forensic Science Service, the Metropolitan Police Authority as landlord, and the Home Office as guarantor of the lease of the laboratory premises at Lambeth, are continuing. The proposed lease, of a five-year duration, has yet to be signed. The current plans by the Forensic Science Service envisage a continued occupancy of the Lambeth premises.

Forensic Science Service: Location

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether relocation packages will be available for skilled Forensic Science Service staff who are to be made redundant at sites listed for closure; and if he will make a statement. [317844]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Forensic Science Service will offer a relocation package for members of staff who have decided that they would like to move to another FSS location.

Forensic Science Service: Redundancy

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his latest estimate is of the number of redundancies at each Forensic Science Service for which closure is planned. [317845]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The FSS has stated that it anticipates a maximum of 800 redundancies across the organisation. As part of this figure, it is anticipated that redundancies will be made at the Chorley, Chepstow and central Birmingham (Priory House) laboratories in accordance with the following table:

FSS location	*Anticipated redundancies*
Chorley	180
Chepstow	150
Birmingham Priory	100

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department paid to the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last five years; how much it has spent on such payments in 2009-10; and what proportion of such payments was made in respect of the Government Car Service. [316784]

Mr. Woolas: The amount paid by the Home Department, inclusive of the Criminal Records Bureau and UKBA agencies, to the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last five financial years and to January 2010 in the current financial year is as follows:

Table 1

Financial year	*GCDA expenditure (£)*
2005-06	2,930,328
2006-07	2,882,441
2007-08	3,565,119
2008-09	3,789,066
April-January 2009-10	2,897,802

Costs to Departments of ministerial cars are reported annually to Parliament by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport through written ministerial statement and are available in the Libraries of the House.

The Department currently has an agreement with the GCDA's Green Car service for the provision of cars and drivers. Available expenditure data are as follows:

Table 2

GCDA's Green Cars	*£*
FY 2007-08	[1]
FY 2008-09	115,000
April-December 2009	191,000

[1] Available only at disproportionate cost

Greater Manchester Police: Forensic Science

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with Greater Manchester Police Force on its decision to hold back all volume crime work from processing by the Forensic Science Service until the next financial year; and if he will make a statement. [317843]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This is a matter for, primarily, the Greater Manchester police in consultation with its forensic suppliers. The FSS has received notification that Greater Manchester police has temporarily suspended submissions of fibres, gun shot residue and glass cases.

Hizb ut-Tahrir

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how many years the group Hizb ut-Tahrir has been active in the UK. [317825]

Alan Johnson: It is normal Home Office policy not to comment on groups which may or may not be added to the list of proscribed organisations.

Hotels

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many separate bookings for stays at hotels rated five stars or above were made through the Expotel booking service by his Department in the latest year for which figures are available; and at what cost those bookings were made. [314813]

Mr. Woolas: From best available information, no bookings for stays at hotels rated at five stars or above were made through the Expotel booking service on behalf of the Home Department in 2009.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government has taken to tackle human trafficking. [316983]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government's plans to combat human trafficking are outlined in the UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking. The plan is updated annually and can be found at:

www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk

The most recent update of the plan, published in October 2009 details 38 actions to tackle trafficking across four key areas of: prevention; investigation, law enforcement and prosecution; providing protection and assistance to adult victims of trafficking; and child victims.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of human trafficking were identified in the UK in 2008. [316984]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The formal identification system introduced under the national referral mechanism came into force from 1 April 2009.

In 2008 referrals of potential victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation were referred to the Poppy Project who in 2008 received a total 293 referrals.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to identify victims of human trafficking. [316985]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government's overall approach to tackling human trafficking is outlined in the, UK Action Plan:

www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/humantrafficking004.htm

As part of its implementation of the Council of Europe convention on action against trafficking in human beings the Government established in April 2009 a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) to identify and support victims. 527 men, women and children were referred through this multi-agency framework in its first nine months of operation. 'First Responders' in designated organisations such as the police, local authorities, and the UK Border Agency (UKBA) refer potential victims of trafficking to trained specialists in 'Competent Authorities' within the UK Human Trafficking Centre and UKBA who determine whether individuals qualify as victims according to the convention.

The Government has rolled out online guidance on trafficking and the NRM, including providing information and advice for frontline practitioners. For children, a trafficking tool kit is currently being piloted in 13 English and Welsh local authorities. This aims to improve first responders' use of the assessment tool kit, which has been designed to help them identify potential child victims of trafficking.

Our launch with Comic Relief of the NSPCC Child Trafficking Advice and Information Line (CTAIL) in November 2007 has succeeded in actively supporting practitioners on how best to identify and safeguard children suspected of being trafficked as well as making a positive difference to outcomes in individual case referrals.

Operation Paladin is a Metropolitan police-led operation involving immigration officers and social workers. It is based at Heathrow airport and the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) Asylum Screening Unit in Croydon. It also has a presence at the Eurostar terminal in London. The team specialises in identifying and safeguarding vulnerable children suspected of being trafficked and undertakes proactive and preventative initiatives against the trafficking of children. It also investigates specific trafficking and migration offences.

The UKBA has developed human trafficking training for frontline staff to raise their awareness of trafficking, and to help staff recognise and identify indicators. The UK Human Trafficking Centre, in conjunction with the National Policing Improvement Agency, has developed training for police officers. The training covers all forms of human trafficking and has been incorporated into programmes for all new officers as well as specific programmes such as initial detective training and those aimed at police community support officers, domestic violence, roads policing and public protection programmes.

Human Trafficking: West Midlands

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people resident in the West Midlands have been *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of trafficking for sexual exploitation in each year since 2004. [315958]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Figures from the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre for the three police forces in the West Midlands area are as follows:

Charged	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Warwickshire	0	0	5	0	0
West Mercia	0	0	0	3	2
West Midlands	0	2	5	3	1

Conviction	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Warwickshire	0	0	5	0	0
West Mercia	0	0	0	1	2
West Midlands	0	0	3	2	0

Illegal Immigrants: Deportation

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of people caught entering the UK illegally were deported in each of the last five years. [316175]

Mr. Woolas: Between January 2005 and December 2009, 33,176 illegal entrants were detected by Border Force officers at the UK Border.

Of the 33,176 illegal entrants detected, 31,968 were removed or deported. A detailed annual breakdown is provided in the following table:

	Illegal entrants detected	*Illegal entrants removed/deported*	*Percentage removed/deported*
2005	3,287	3,090	94
2006	5,580	5,442	97
2007	5,981	5,778	97
2008	8,983	8,643	96
2009	9,336	9,015	97
Total	33,176	31,968	96

The information used to answer this question has been taken from a live database and is therefore subject to change. It is suitable for management information purposes and has not been subject to the detailed checks required to qualify as National Statistics.

Immigrants: Detainees

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment is made of the mental well-being of detainees in immigration detention centres. [317698]

Mr. Woolas: Immigration removal centres are operated in accordance with the Detention Centre Rules 2001.

In accordance with the rules, each centre has a health care department to deliver primary services, which include medical practitioners and nursing staff, including registered mental health nurses.

Each detainee is seen by a nurse within two hours of arrival at a centre. They are then given an appointment to see a GP within 24 hours, unless the nurse considers an earlier examination is required.

Where issues of mental illness are identified which require secondary treatment, a referral is made to the relevant primary care trust for assessment and treatment as necessary.

Immigrants: Merseyside

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has made an estimate of the number of immigrants with work permits who have worked in Merseyside since 1997. [316830]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 February 2010]:* The information requested is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Immigration

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of claims for indefinite leave to remain were *(a)* granted and *(b)* declined within (i) three months, (ii) six months, (iii) 12 months, (iv) 24 months and (v) longer in each of the last five years. [315648]

Mr. Woolas: The following tables show the percentage of grants and refusals against the annual totals for the past five years.

ILR Grant

	Percentage					
	<3 months	*<6 months*	*<12 months*	*<24 months*	*>24 months*	*Grand total*
2005	74	11	13	1	1	86,053
2006	83	4	9	2	2	81,881
2007	87	5	4	3	1	72,296
2008	95	2	1	1	1	77,265
2009	90	5	2	1	2	98,117
Five year total	86	6	6	1	1	415,612

ILR Refusal

	Percentage					
	<3 months	*<6 months*	*<12 months*	*<24 months*	*>24 months*	*Grand total*
2005	82	10	3	3	2	3,965
2006	67	11	13	8	1	5,756
2007	49	17	11	14	9	10,103
2008	50	12	13	12	13	8,098
2009	29	26	10	12	23	9,616
Five year total	50	18	10	11	11	37,538

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the full chronology is of the processing of the hon. Member for Thurrock's constituent's case, Ref J269056, since the granting of exceptional leave to remain on 22 May 2000; for what reasons his acknowledged re-application submitted in 2004 has not been determined; when that application will be determined; and if he will make a statement. [316543]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 February 2010]:* The UK Border Agency wrote to my hon. Friend on 5 February 2010 addressing the concerns he has raised.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the full chronology is of the processing of the hon. Member for Thurrock's constituent's case, Ref G354413; CTS Ref No. M12456/9, since his arrival in the UK on 26 April 1997; for what reasons there has been no determination of his and his family's case; when the case will be determined; and if he will make a statement. [316544]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 February 2010]:* The UK Border Agency wrote to my hon. Friend on 5 February 2010 addressing the concerns he has raised.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for leave to remain in the UK were made outside the immigration rules in the last 12 months. [317363]

Mr. Woolas: The number of non-asylum applications for leave to remain in the UK, that were made outside the immigration rules in the last 12 months, to the end of December 2009 was 9,295[1].

[1] All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many powers relating to immigration have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended by legislation sponsored by his Department since 1997. [317666]

Alan Johnson: Since 1997 there have been a number of Acts of Parliament relating to immigration as follows:

The Special Immigration Appeals Commission Act 1997

The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

The British Overseas Territories Act 2002

The Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002

The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004

The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006

The UK Borders Act 2007

The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008

The Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009

These Acts have created various immigration powers for a range of public bodies including the Secretary of State, immigration officers and the courts. These statutes also make amendments to Acts pre-dating them, not least the Immigration Act 1971.

Immigration: Fees and Charges

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to assist those who are unable to afford the fee required for an extension to a UK visa. [316782]

Mr. Woolas: There are no mechanisms in place to assist those who are unable to afford the application fee.

An applicant who makes an application under a category not covered by an exemption set out in the fee regulations must pay the appropriate fee for that application for it to be considered. Any application made that is not accompanied by the correct fee is invalid.

Immigration: Yemen

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many citizens of Yemen have been refused entry to the UK on grounds of links to terrorism in each of the last five years. [315928]

Mr. Woolas: In the last five years, a total of two Yemeni nationals have been refused entry to the UK on the basis that their presence in the UK would not be conducive to the public good. This category of refusal includes, but is not limited to, those nationals suspected of having links to terrorism.

Both of these refusals took place in 2009 and resulted in the individuals being removed from the UK.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information in electronic format provided by his Department to the Iraq Inquiry that Inquiry has sought to publish under the procedure set out in the protocol on documents and other written and electronic information; and if he will make a statement. [314544]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her by the minister of State for the Cabinet Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Dulwich and West Norwood (Tessa Jowell) on 9 February 2010, *Official Report,* columns 893-894W.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 22 October 2009, *Official Report,* column 1645W, on local government finance, what data sets not contained in the national indicator set local authorities are required to submit to his Department. [314951]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office does not place any statutory obligations on local authorities to submit any data sets to the Department, other than the national indicator set.

Mephedrone

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration he has given to the inclusion of a question on mephedrone use in the British Crime Survey. [317556]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A question on mephedrone use will be added to the British Crime Survey from April 2010.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs in respect of mephedrone use. [317558]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) advised me of its concerns regarding the potential harms associated with the cathinones, including mephedrone, in correspondence sent on 22 December 2009. The council's commitment to review these compounds as a matter of urgency was reinforced at a meeting between myself and the interim Chair of the Council on 2 February 2010. The council are progressing this at a meeting to be held on the 22 February 2010, and will report to Ministers as soon as is practicable.

Milngavie Reservoir: Security

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent *(a)* discussions and *(b)* correspondence he has had with (i) Ministers in the Scottish Executive and (ii) representatives of Scottish Water on the public security issues concerning the erection of fences around Milngavie reservoir; what security threat the fences are intended to address; what recent assessment he has made of the requirement for such security fencing; and if he will make a statement. [315445]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 4 February 2010]*: There have been no recent discussions or correspondence between Home Office Ministers and Scottish Ministers or representatives of Scottish Water on public security issues concerning the erection of fences around Milngavie reservoir.

In line with our long-standing policy, we do not comment on matters of national security.

Offenders: Deportation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many time-served foreign prisoners held in the UK border Agency's detention estate *(a)* went missing without permission and *(b)* re-offended whilst being held in each year since 1998. [317662]

Alan Johnson: The following table shows the number of time-served foreign prisoners held in the UK Border Agency's detention estate who went missing without permission between 2007 and 2009.

Time-served foreign prisoners missing without permission from a detention centre

	Number
2007	26
2008	10
2009	1

These data relate only to those time-served foreign prisoners being held pending deportation.

These data are based on management information only and have not been subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. These figures are provisional and are subject to change.

The information requested for the number of time-served foreign prisoners held in the UK Border Agency's detention estate who went missing without permission between 1998 and 2007 and the number of time-served foreign prisoners held in the UK Border Agency's detention estate who re-offended while being held in each year since 1998, can only be obtained by the detailed examination of individual record at disproportionate cost.

Passports

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will estimate the effect on expenditure as classified in the *(a)* common passport and identity card and *(b)* passport-specific section of the most recent identity cards scheme cost report of issuing passports without fingerprint data in each year from 2010-11 to 2018-19. [310383]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 12 January 2010]:* It is intended that passports incorporating fingerprints will be introduced from 2012 onwards and applicants for such passports will be enrolled on the National Identity Register. From that point, common business processes and technology infrastructure will be used to register applicants on the National Identity Register and issue them with an identity card and/or a passport.

Passports: Fees and Charges

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the differences are between the fee structures for passport applications for British citizens resident overseas and those resident in the UK. [316079]

Alan Johnson: The Identity and Passport Service sets the passport fee for British citizens following an annual review with HM Treasury to ensure passport fee levels are set to recover the costs of the service provided.

The passport fee for British citizens resident overseas is set by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to increase the UK passport application fee in 2010. [316171]

Meg Hillier: Passport fees are set in order to recover the full cost of providing the service including an element for non fee bearing consular services abroad. Fee levels are reviewed annually with HM Treasury.

The passport fee review for 2010 has not yet been concluded.

Passports: Lost Property

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dispatched passports have been reported lost since November 2007; and what estimate he has made of the number of such lost passports that may have been stolen. [316794]

Meg Hillier: During the period November 2007 to September 2009, the latest date for which information is available, 1,135 passports, 0.01 per cent. of those produced, were recorded as lost during the delivery process.

Of these, 115 are recorded as lost as a result of theft from a courier or courier's vehicle, and 16 as misplaced within the delivery process.

The remainder are recorded as lost due to misposting by couriers.

Police

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in each police force in England were on each category of restricted duties in each reporting period from 1997 to 2010; and if he will make a statement. [316717]

Mr. Hanson: Data on officers on recuperative and restricted duties are available centrally from 2003. Force level figures for each year from 2003-09, the latest available reporting period, are shown in the following tables. Figures for 2010 will be available later this year.

Police officers on recuperative[1] and restricted[2] duties, 2003-09

As at 31 March each year

	2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Recuperative	*Restricted*	*Recuperative*	*Restricted*	*Recuperative*	*Restricted*	*Recuperative*	*Restricted*
Avon and Somerset	62	133	61	166	65	171	52	205
Bedfordshire	13	12	99	161	44	111	27	41
Cambridgeshire	72	47	59	51	32	28	45	28
Cheshire	87	7	118	7	21	54	59	52
Cleveland	23	82	35	44	21	116	—	—
Cumbria	0	0	30	26	9	20	30	28
Derbyshire	44	82	46	79	65	84	12	12
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	—	8	0	25	22
Dorset	53	34	47	39	53	54	49	53
Durham	34	23	—	—	47	49	18	82
Dyfed-Powys	22	14	—	—	18	37	16	31
Essex	740	371	977	588	78	54	122	95
Gloucestershire	6	6	9	24	11	26	15	45
Greater Manchester	29	181	130	101	134	280	65	435
Gwent	13	35	32	76	10	39	8	62
Hampshire	—	150	25	95	—	—	—	—
Hertfordshire	21	85	43	107	7	100	62	147
Humberside	246	9	86	16	141	22	95	25
Kent	113	164	19	192	0	182	10	188
Lancashire	15	14	15	8	111	124	99	159

Police officers on recuperative[1] and restricted[2] duties, 2003-09[3]

	2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Recuperative	Restricted	Recuperative	Restricted	Recuperative	Restricted	Recuperative	Restricted
Leicestershire		—	—	—	—	—	8	81
Lincolnshire	18	26	6	76	6	11	7	65
London, City of	10	34	10	42	7	52	3	34
Merseyside	412	0	252	39	304	57	86	396
Metropolitan Police	1,161	183	1,039	208	1,246	442	1,119	766
Norfolk	48	28	48	48	34	65	35	41
Northamptonshire	74	10	45	29	83	33	87	30
Northumbria	84	33	98	47	104	40	30	64
North Wales	28	4	—	—	166	40	112	73
North Yorkshire	44	16	32	20	50	50	43	34
Nottinghamshire	1	99	2	52	7	58	5	110
South Wales	64	23	74	40	—	—	88	54
South Yorkshire	82	13	54	17	60	23	51	39
Staffordshire	282	69	315	43	167	32	149	47
Suffolk	6	64	9	62	35	70	29	75
Surrey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex	—	—	—	—	13	—	12	0
Thames Valley	60	41	90	107	—	—	129	113
Warwickshire	23	37	38	56	24	30	47	23
West Mercia	50	15	48	31	31	49	61	65
West Midlands	37	5	317	270	251	329	278	260
West Yorkshire	228	139	148	99	136	236	144	208
Wiltshire	65	11	26	1	65	3	101	2

As at 31 March each year

	2007		2008		2009	
	Recuperative	Restricted	Recuperative	Restricted	Recuperative	Restricted
Avon and Somerset	44	252	28	177	27	149
Bedfordshire	42	41	26	38	30	41
Cambridgeshire	30	35	0	42	0	1
Cheshire	42	117	39	138	28	113
Cleveland	21	74	16	51	15	44
Cumbria	29	45	14	69	2	5
Derbyshire	2	6	0	6	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	178	87	56	74	55	94
Dorset	41	43	45	37	50	32
Durham	29	51	26	29	16	35
Dyfed-Powys	17	25	19	45	50	93
Essex	116	100	132	126	64	37
Gloucestershire	7	56	4	81	13	64
Greater Manchester	107	398	115	424	104	425
Gwent	11	55	20	54	17	47
Hampshire	—	—	—	142	0	131
Hertfordshire	14	121	—	—	—	—
Humberside	98	31	93	33	80	30
Kent	23	275	26	254	816	153
Lancashire	113	137	95	145	114	184
Leicestershire	4	116	13	130	6	122
Lincolnshire	4	67	2	78	10	62
London, City of	6	32	7	35	3	35
Merseyside	64	366	89	103	70	56
Metropolitan Police	1,094	921	1,078	1,042	1,118	1,151
Norfolk	25	44	26	48	23	48
Northamptonshire	59	51	83	64	51	65
Northumbria	78	50	64	26	82	22
North Wales	49	81	34	52	117	43
North Yorkshire	74	44	97	29	79	9
Nottinghamshire	28	75	215	71	25	75
South Wales	80	77	12	161	91	70
South Yorkshire	53	82	42	76	33	75
Staffordshire	70	133	93	143	62	149

	As at 31 March each year					
	2007		2008		2009	
	Recuperative	Restricted	Recuperative	Restricted	Recuperative	Restricted
Suffolk	28	85	19	106	—	—
Surrey	—	—	29	28	56	25
Sussex	73	81	—	—	104	88
Thames Valley	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warwickshire	87	39	29	51	44	56
West Mercia	82	76	71	83	94	86
West Midlands	80	203	41	228	121	311
West Yorkshire	143	285	175	302	164	341
Wiltshire	72	1	86	1	103	1

[1] Total number of police officers (head count) on 'recuperative' duties as at 31 March. These are temporary duties or working conditions approved to assist an officer's ultimate return to full duties after injury or illness by allowing them to return to or continue in work of a less demanding capacity.

[2] Total number of police officers (head count) on 'restricted' duties as at 31 March. These are duties or conditions approved, other than for recuperative purposes, for fixed periods totalling more than 28 consecutive days (including rest days) for an officer who is unable for a specific reason to carry out one or more aspects of full operational duty.

[3] These data are provisional. They have not undergone usual quality assurance practices (including validation with individual police forces), and are therefore supplied for information purposes only.

Police National Computer

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has issued to police forces on removing records from the Police National Computer relating to people who have had their DNA profile removed from the National DNA Database as an exceptional case; and if he will make a statement. [317148]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office has issued no such guidance to the police.

The PNC retention guidelines issued by the Association of Chief Police Officers include an exceptional cases procedure. In accordance with this, it is for individual chief police officers to use their discretion to decide whether to amend or delete information placed by their force on the police national computer (PNC) and the national DNA database (NDNAD). In exercising that discretion, they may make different decisions in respect of information held on the different systems.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many personal records have been removed from the Police National Computer in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [317149]

Mr. Hanson: The police national computer (PNC) is an operational tool and is not designed to produce the information requested. To obtain the information would incur a disproportionate cost.

Police: Emergency Calls

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* average and *(b)* average target response time for police attendance at the scene of an incident following a 999 call in (i) each police force area and (ii) England and Wales. [317826]

Alan Johnson: The Policing Pledge, which was introduced across all police forces in England and Wales at the end of 2008, sets out the minimum standards of service that the public can expect to receive from the police including for response times. Through the pledge, the police have committed to aim to answer 999 calls within 10 seconds, deploying to emergencies immediately, giving an estimated time of arrival and reaching the incident as safely and as quickly as possible. In urban areas, they aim to arrive within 15 minutes and in rural areas within 20 minutes.

The Home Office does not collect data centrally on average response times. However in October 2009, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary published a report on the standard of pledge delivery across all police forces. The report notes that on responding to emergency calls, 17 forces were graded 'good', 25 were 'fair' and one force was 'poor'.

It is for individual police forces and authorities to ensure delivery of the policing pledge in their area. The Government will hold forces to account for progress through the single top-down target we have set them to improve public confidence that crime and antisocial behaviour are being tackled locally, and in the light of inspection work by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. Latest British Crime Survey (BCS) figures released in January 2010 show an improving trend, that, nationally, 50 per cent. of the public now agree that the police and local councils are dealing with the antisocial behaviour and crime issues that matter locally.

Police: Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time police officers there were in Feltham and Heston *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which information is available. [316699]

Mr. Hanson: Data on numbers of police officers are not available specifically at constituency level. The Feltham and Heston constituency lies within the Metropolitan police's basic command unit (BCU) of Hounslow borough. Figures at BCU level have been collected only since 2002-03. They show that the number of full-time equivalent police officers in Hounslow rose from 467 on 31 March 2003 to 518 on 31 March 2009, the latest published period. These figures include officers on career break or maternity/paternity leave. A full BCU breakdown of police officer numbers appears each year in supplementary tables to the annual 'Police Service Strength' publication, available on the Home Office website and the Library of the House.

Police: Football

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the expenditure was of the UK Football Policing Unit in England and Wales in each year since 2003. [317579]

Alan Johnson: The UK Football Policing Unit (UKFPU) was established in November 2005 following a review of the funding and delivery arrangements for policing regulated football matches in England and Wales. UKFPU is a front-line Home Office unit jointly overseen with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) lead for policing football. It undertakes a range of statutory functions and provides an infrastructure for policing English and Welsh football matches at home and, in particular, abroad. Information on expenditure is only available for the financial year commencing April 2006—the initial period having been funded from core Home Office resources.

	Expenditure of the UK Football Policing Unit (£)
April 2006 to March 2007	1,486,933
April 2007 to March 2008	2,094,858
April 2008 to March 2009	2,191,302

Powers of Entry

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many powers of entry have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended by legislation sponsored by his Department since 1997. [311555]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 28 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1046-48W.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Prime Minister's speech at the University of Westminster on 25 October 2007, on liberty, for what reasons the proposed new test for powers of entry has not been implemented. [314957]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to my answer on 28 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1047W.

Powers of Entry: Public Consultation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the public consultation to be undertaken as part of Lord West's review of powers of entry will commence. [312021]

Mr. Hanson: Proposals on a future framework approach for powers of entry will be published later this year.

Public Holidays

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the introduction of an additional public holiday; and if he will make a statement. [315116]

Mr. Woolas: The value of the introduction of an additional day's public holiday in the Home Office can be costed at an estimated notional value of £2.2 million, but it would not in fact incur an additional cost to the pay bill, as staff would merely be paid for a day on which they were not working rather than one on which they were. Similarly, although there are services offered by the Home Office which generate income, income would not be lost, as those services are not available from an alternative source and so would be obtained and paid for on another day. Therefore, although a notional cost can be attributed to the introduction of an additional day's public holiday, there would be no actual cost.

Repatriation

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on the *(a)* Facilitated Returns Scheme and *(b)* Assisted Voluntary Returns programme in each year of their operation; and how many individuals have been awarded funds in each such year. [315379]

Mr. Woolas: Expenditure by the UK Border Agency on the Facilitated Returns Scheme (FRS) from its inception in October 2006 to March 2009 was approximately £4.3 million. Of the 4,200 foreign national prisoners removed or deported in 2007 around 25 per cent. were removed under the scheme. Of the 5,400 foreign national prisoners removed in 2008 and the 3,890 removed in quarters 1-3 2009, around 30 per cent. were removed under FRS.

Assisted Voluntary Return programmes costs by full programme year 2000-07

Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration programme

Programme year	*Total funding (£)*
2000-01	557,827
2001-02	992,587
2002-03	956,048
2003-04	4,500,823
2004-05	7,267,560
2005-06	8,640,406
2006-07	15,390,384
2007-08	11,132,486
Total	49,438,121

Notes:
1. Pilot programme 1999.
2. Programme year 2000-05—April to July extended.
3. Programme year 2005-06 onwards—August to July.

Assisted Voluntary Return for irregular migrants

Programme year	*Total funding (£)*
2005-06	555,453
2006-07	1,518,112
2007-08	1,803,994
Total	3,877,559

Notes:
1. Pilot 15 November 2004 to 31 March 2005
2. Programme year—April to March

These costs may be subject to revision and are still subject to audit, costs have yet to be agreed. 2008 programme final

The following table shows how many individuals left under AVR.

	Asylum cases leaving under AVR programmes	*Non-Asylum cases leaving under AVR programmes*
1999	50	—
2000	550	—

	Asylum cases leaving under AVR programmes	Non-Asylum cases leaving under AVR programmes
2001	980	
2002	895	–
2003	1,755	—
2004	2,705	10
2005	3,235	420
2006	5,340	860
2007[1]	2,865	1,290
2008[1]	2,700	1,595

[1] Provisional figures.

Both AVR and FRS are currently part funded by the European Union.

Repatriation: Offenders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders were removed from the country under the Facilitated Returns Scheme in each year from October 2006 to October 2009; what the cost of the scheme was in each of those years; and what the average level of grant to offenders was in each of those years. [311016]

Mr. Woolas: Of the 4,200 foreign national prisoners removed or deported in 2007 around 25 per cent. were removed under the Facilitated Returns Scheme (FRS). Of the 5,400 foreign national prisoners removed in 2008 and the 3,890 removed in quarters 1 to 3 2009, around 30 per cent. were removed under FRS.

Management information on the average level of grant awarded to those removed under FRS and who claimed the reintegration package in 2006 or 2007 is not considered sufficiently reliable. In both 2008 and between quarters 1 and 3 of 2009 less than three-quarters removed under FRS claimed the reintegration package on return and of those that did, the average amount received was less than £2,500 for 2008 and £3,500 for quarters 1 to 3 of 2009.

The scheme continues to deliver significant number of removals of foreign national criminals and continues to be developed to maximise savings and maintain public safety.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency will provide the Home Affairs Committee with information on the cost of the FRS when she writes later this month.

Sexual Offences

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many registered sex offenders in England and Wales have been found not to be residing at their registered address in each year since 1998. [314822]

Alan Johnson: The data requested are not collected in the format requested and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Smuggling: Shipping

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many ships were searched by HM Revenue and Customs in UK ports in each of the last three years. [314539]

Mr. Woolas: In April 2008, specialist search teams which were previously the responsibility of HM Revenue and Customs, became part of the UK Border Agency.

The number of ships searched in Northern Ireland ports, by these teams in the last three years, is as follows:

Financial year	Ships searched
2006-07	0
2007-08	0
2008-09	16

In addition to the searches carried out by these specialist teams, non-specialist UK Border Agency staff, including the Cutter fleet, also challenge and board commercial vessels arriving in UK ports.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many ships were searched by HM Revenue and Customs in Northern Ireland ports in each of the last three years. [314540]

Mr. Woolas: In April 2008, specialist search teams which were previously the responsibility of HM Revenue and Customs, became part of the UK Border Agency.

The number of ships searched in UK ports, by these teams in the last three years, is as follows:

Financial year	Number of ships searched
2006-07	85
2007-08	505
2008-09	640

In addition to the searches carried out by these specialist teams, non-specialist UK Border Agency staff, including the Cutter fleet, also challenge and board commercial vessels arriving in UK ports.

Special Advocates

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether special advocates have been employed in cases involving *(a)* control orders, *(b)* the Special Immigration Appeals Commission, *(c)* asset freezing, *(d)* the Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission, *(e)* the Security Vetting Appeals Panel, *(f)* the Employment Tribunal, *(g)* the Employment Appeal Tribunal and *(h)* race discrimination claims under the Race Relations Act 1976 since their introduction; [316606]

(2) whether special advocates have been employed in cases involving *(a)* criminal prosecutions where closed material is relied upon, *(b)* the Information Tribunal, *(c)* judicial review of Government decisions not to provide exculpatory material relating to Guantánamo detainees, *(d)* private law compensation claims from former Guantánamo detainees, *(e)* other judicial reviews where closed material is used, *(f)* decisions on the release and recall of prisoners involving the use of closed material under various statutory provisions in Northern Ireland and *(g)* the National Security Certificate Appeals Tribunal Northern Ireland since their introduction. [316618]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

The answers to the questions the hon. Member for Hendon has posed may most helpfully be put in the form of a table, which appears as follows. The table relates to the UK and has been prepared with the assistance of the Office of the Solicitor to the Advocate-General for Scotland.

		Yes	No
Question 316606			
(a)	Control Orders	x	
(b)	Special Immigration Appeals Commission	x	
(c)	Asset Freezing	x	
(d)	Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission	x	—
(e)	Security Vetting Appeals Panel	x	—
(f)	Employment Tribunal	x	—
(g)	Employment Appeal Tribunal	x	—
(h)	Race Discrimination claims under Race Relations Act 1976	—	x
Question 316618			
(a)	Criminal Prosecutions—in this context the advocates are known as "Special Counsel"	x	—
(b)	Information Tribunal	x	—
(c)	Guantanamo Detainees—Judicial Review	x	—
(d)	Former Guantanamo Detainees—Private Law Compensation claims	—	x
(e)	Other Judicial Reviews	x	—
(f)	Release and Recall of Prisoners under various statutory provisions in Northern Ireland	x	—
(g)	National Security Certificate Appeals Tribunal Northern Ireland	x	—

Stun Guns

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the potential for use by the police of the extended range electronic projectile Taser. [314784]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have no current plans to introduce extended range electronic projectiles for use by the police.

The Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB) assesses and reviews a range of new technologies on behalf of the police service. As part of this work, HOSDB is conducting preliminary assessments of the effectiveness, level of risk and utility of a product being developed by Taser International called the extended Range Electronic Projectile (XREP). Any equipment issued to police officers is subject to very rigorous testing, and would also undergo full independent medical assessment.

The Government's approach to developing the use of less lethal weapons is in line with articles 2 and 3 of the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms.

Theft: Motor Vehicles

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of thefts of cars facilitated through the theft of car keys. [315926]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The British Crime Survey 2008-09 shows that vehicle crime has reduced by 57 per cent. since 1997. This success was achieved by Government and police working with partners in the public and private sectors to reduce crime, and to make cars harder to steal. It is now almost impossible to steal a car without using the keys. Some criminals now target the car keys, and the most prevalent method for doing so is by burgling homes to steal car keys, known as car key burglary.

We have invested £15 million this year in preventing and tackling burglary, including physically securing homes with effective locks and providing the right advice to those most at risk of burglary. Our current publicity campaign "Don't Advertise Your Stuff To Thieves" specifically addresses this crime through its television advert. Renewed advice on preventing burglary, including car key burglary, is also available on the Home Office website. We are currently working with the police and the Home Office Design and Technology Alliance to develop further responses to the issue of car key burglary.

We have updated our advice to people on how to protect their homes and cars. The Home Office website provides advice to householders on protecting themselves from burglary, including advice on keeping car keys out of sight of doors and windows, closing and locking doors and windows, and advising on appropriate security standards to take account of when replacing windows or doors. It includes "Steer Clear of Car Crime", an updated publication which provides advice for people on protecting their car and its contents from theft, including specific advice on keeping car keys safe from thieves.

The Home Office also funds the ACPO Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service (AVCIS). Its aims include reducing thefts of vehicles and increasing recovery of stolen vehicles. It works closely with partners across police forces, the wider public sector and the private sector to tackle vehicle crime in all its forms, including car key burglary. AVCIS has participated in a number of successful joint police operations targeted at reducing vehicle crime, including car key burglary.

UK Border Agency

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints UK Border Agency managers have received from staff intending to become whistleblowers in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [317030]

Mr. Woolas: This information is not collected centrally.

The Home Office policy on whistleblowing encourages members of staff to speak up about genuine concerns regarding wrongdoing and matters of conscience. They may raise their concerns in a number of ways: to their line manager; another manager whom they trust; one of the Department's nominated officers; to the Civil Service Commissioners; or to a relevant regulatory body such as the National Audit Office or the Health and Safety Executive. Matters of conscience may also be reported to the Permanent Secretary.

UK Border Agency: Complaints

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints the UK Border Agency (UKBA) received against its staff *(a)* for each given reason and *(b)* from each type of UKBA service user in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [316329]

Mr. Woolas: Data for complaints received by the UK Border Agency from members of the public about UK Border Agency staff can be provided for 2008 and 2009.

Serious misconduct complaints (Serious misconduct is any unprofessional behaviour which, if substantiated, would lead to disciplinary action)

2008

127 complaints (eight of which were substantiated)

2009

155 complaints (18 of which were substantiated)

Minor misconduct complaints (Minor misconduct is usually to do with isolated instances of rudeness and unprofessional conduct which are not serious enough to warrant a formal investigation and if substantiated they would not lead to criminal or disciplinary proceedings)

2008

293 complaints

2009

774 complaints

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints about racism involving UK Border Agency staff were received from asylum seekers in each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [316330]

Mr. Woolas: Between January 2009 and January 2010, 28 complaints concerning serious misconduct that involved allegations of racism were received by the UK Border Agency, from members of the public, one of these complaints was substantiated. No geographical breakdown is available nor do records indicate in how many cases the complainants were asylum seekers.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints relating to incidents of violence by UK Border Agency staff were received from asylum seekers in each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [316333]

Mr. Woolas: 92 allegations of assault by UKBA staff were received between January 2009 and January 2010, two of these were substantiated. Central data do not show whether or not the complainant was an asylum seeker in each case.

UK Border Agency: Contracts

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 587W, on UK Border Agency: contracts, which contractors were awarded the 13 UK Border Agency contracts valued at over £2 million in 2009. [317244]

Mr. Woolas: The contractors awarded the 13 UK Border Agency contracts valued at over £2 million in 2009 are as follows:

1. Rapiscan Systems Ltd.
2. The GEO Group UK Ltd.
3. Northern Ireland Housing Executive
4. FCO Services
5. FCO Services
6. Atos Origin IT Services UK Limited
7. Dell Corporation
8. Specialist Computer Centres plc
9. Serco
10. G4S
11. G4S
12. Jomast
13. Interserve

UK Border Agency: Crimes of Violence

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of violence by asylum seekers against UK Border Agency staff were recorded in each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [316331]

Mr. Woolas: Please see following table which shows the number of physical assaults recorded by location. Please note that UKBA does not record the identity of the individual making the assault and cannot specify whether he or she was an 'asylum seeker'. The figures in the table therefore represent all assaults on staff by members of the public and not just asylum seekers. Verbal assaults are excluded from these data.

City	*Total*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Birmingham	1	0	0	0	0	1
Cardiff	1	0	0	0	1	0
Castle Donington	1	0	0	1	0	0
Crawley	1	1	0	0	0	0
Croydon	10	0	0	6	0	4
Felixstowe	1	0	1	0	0	0
Folkestone	7	1	0	4	0	2
Harlington	1	0	0	0	1	0
Hounslow	4	0	0	1	1	2
Liverpool	6	0	0	3	1	2
London	8	0	1	3	1	3
Manchester	1	0	1	0	0	0
Poole	2	0	2	0	0	0
Portsmouth	1	0	0	0	0	1
Salford	1	0	1	0	0	0
Stansted	1	0	0	0	0	1
Not recorded	12	3	1	7	1	0
Total	59	5	7	25	6	16

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of service at the UK Border Agency has been of *(a)* case-owners and *(b)* casework team leaders (i) in Cardiff and (ii) nationally in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [316217]

Mr. Woolas: UK Border Agency staffing data held are collated by grade only and not by role. Therefore average length of service of these roles is not available.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of UK Border Agency legal staff *(a)* in Cardiff and *(b)* nationally are qualified (i) solicitors, (ii) barristers and (iii) para-legal staff; and if he will make a statement. [316220]

Mr. Woolas: There are no staff of the UK Border Agency based in Cardiff whose role is to provide legal services. General advice on procedure and current case law is provided through teams outside the Wales and South West of England region and are staffed by policy specialists. Bespoke legal advice is commissioned from the Home Office Legal Advisers Branch, Treasury Solicitor or independent Counsel as required.

Home Office Presenting Officers, who appear for the Secretary of State in the vast majority of represented appeals before the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal, are not required to hold a legal qualification.

No data are held on whether staff employed by UK Border Agency hold these qualifications.

UK Border Agency: Standards

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to ensure the consistency of immigration application decisions taken by different UK Border Agency offices; and if he will make a statement. [316332]

Mr. Woolas: The Department has in place a number of measures designed to ensure the consistency of asylum decisions. All applications are considered against centrally produced guidance and new caseowners receive uniform national training before they begin to deal with cases. Audit and quality control processes are in place and issues arising from the audits are promulgated nationally every month. Consistency is promoted through regular meetings of both regional asylum managers and senior asylum caseworkers who use a variety of networks to help ensure that best practice is shared and promoted nationwide.

UK Border Agency: Termination of Employment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of UK Border Agency case owners based in Cardiff have had their contracts terminated for each reason in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [316218]

Mr. Woolas: UK Border Agency staffing data are held by grade and not by role. So it is not possible to answer the question as asked. In respect of all staff in Cardiff, contracts have been terminated as follows:

Termination of contract in Cardiff

	Number
2009-10	10
2008-09	5
2007-08	0
2006-07	5
2005-06	0

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of UK Border Agency case owners had their contracts terminated for each reason in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [316219]

Mr. Woolas: UK Border Agency staffing data are held by grade and not by role. So it is not possible to answer the question as put. In respect of staff across the agency, contracts have been terminated as follows:

Leaving reason	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Discharge on inefficiency grounds during a probationary or trial period	[1]—	10	6	[1]—	[1]—
Dismissal for inefficiency with compensation	12	16	19	25	21
Dismissal for inefficiency without compensation	25	11	31	21	8
Dismissal on disciplinary grounds with compensation	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	7	[1]—
Dismissal on disciplinary grounds without compensation	25	26	41	36	38
End of Contract HO	[1]—	12	54	190	781
Gross Misconduct	[1]—	11	[1]—	[1]—	0
Total	76	88	156	284	853

[1] Five or less.

UK Border Agency: Training

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* equality and *(b)* cultural awareness training is (i) compulsory and (ii) made voluntarily available for UK Border Agency employees; and if he will make a statement. [316216]

Mr. Woolas: A range of learning vehicles on equality and cultural awareness are available to UK Border Agency staff. These can be delivered by e-learning, workshops and DVDs. All permanent UKBA staff are required to complete diversity e-learning.

Vandalism

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of vandalism have been reported in *(a)* England, *(b)* Suffolk, *(c)* Bedfordshire, *(d)* Cambridgeshire, *(e)* Essex, *(f)* Hertfordshire and *(g)* Norfolk in each year since 1997. [314884]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information relates to offences of criminal damage recorded by the police and is given in the following tables.

Table 1: Offences of criminal damage recorded in selected police force areas, 1997

Police force area	*Number of offences*
England	822,029
Suffolk	7,835
Bedfordshire	8,025
Cambridgeshire	9,250
Essex	18,845
Hertfordshire	9,831
Norfolk	9,782

Table 2: Offences of criminal damage recorded in selected police force areas, 1998-99 to 2001-02[1, 2]

Police force area	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
				Number of offences
England	823,520	890,756	906,800	1,007,634
Suffolk	7,898	9,547	10,150	12,095
Bedfordshire	7,893	8,048	7,892	8,191
Cambridgeshire	11,925	12,110	13,197	13,972
Essex	18,834	21,766	24,673	26,990
Hertfordshire	10,177	11,560	13,839	15,302
Norfolk	10,393	10,978	11,481	13,065

[1] The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.

[2] The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Offences of criminal damage recorded in selected police force areas, 2002-03 to 2008-09[1]

Police force area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
							Number of offences
England[2]	1,043,197	1,139,308	1,120,426	1,107,645	1,106,543	965,932	870,684
Suffolk	11,497	12,817	12,781	13,067	13,084	12,207	11,300
Bedfordshire	10,050	11,065	10,561	10,817	10,717	10,141	8,720
Cambridgeshire	16,153	16,534	16,227	14,680	13,987	14,001	12,980
Essex	30,337	34,253	32,406	30,564	30,010	26,379	23,554
Hertfordshire	17,988	19,887	20,762	20,986	20,713	17,374	14,999
Norfolk	16,030	17,462	17,470	17,577	17,258	14,790	12,647

[1] The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

[2] Excluding British Transport police.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre: Hunger Strikes

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports he has received on *(a)* an ongoing hunger strike by women at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre and *(b)* the reasons given by those women for taking that action; and if he will make a statement. [317379]

Mr. Woolas: The director of detention services and his staff have kept me fully informed about the passive protest by women at Yarl's Wood and continue to do so.

The protest has included a number of women refusing to eat meals provided in the canteen, although a number of them continue to purchase food made available in the shop and vending machines.

The well-being of the women is being monitored closed by health care officials in the centre and none are showing any signs of concern.

While each resident will have their own personal reasons for joining the protest, they are in general objecting to their detention. The UK Border Agency aims to keep detention to a minimum in order to enforce the removal of those with no basis of stay in the UK or whose deportation is required to protect the public from the harm they pose. It is a fact that detainees themselves often prolong their own detention by making late spurious appeals and failing to comply with the documentation and removal process.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 23 February 2010

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Tracing Schemes

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Secretary of State for Health in order to merge the Food Standards Agency's livestock traceability scheme with his Department's animal tracing schemes. [316825]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are no plans to merge the livestock traceability work undertaken by DEFRA and the Food Standards Agency although DEFRA and the agency continue to collaborate closely. For example, Food Standards Agency official veterinarians already make use of documentation required under DEFRA's livestock identification and movement regulations in checking the origin and identity of livestock entering slaughterhouses for human consumption.

Dangerous Dogs

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people have *(a)* been prosecuted under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 and *(b)* received the maximum sentence for ownership of a banned dog in each year since 1998; and how many weapon dogs have been seized by police in England and Wales in each of those years. [314771]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts and those fined and given immediate custody under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, England and Wales, from 1998 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Data for 2009 are expected to be published in the autumn of 2010.

Figures for the number of dogs seized under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 are not collected centrally.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, England and Wales, 1998 to 2008[1,2]

		Defendants										
		1998	*1999*	*2000*[3]	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[4]
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991												
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person	Proceeded against	434	449	458	490	537	560	597	645	703	667	675
	Found guilty	239	262	260	285	300	302	350	403	458	456	481
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injuring any person	Proceeded against	28	34	35	50	38	52	48	44	54	50	44
	Found guilty	13	19	19	31	30	33	25	25	29	27	33
Offences in relation to dogs under Section 1(2)(a)	Proceeded against	6	1	2	1	6	4	15	3	2	9	4
	Found guilty	5	—	—	—	3	2	14	1	1	7	4
Offences in relation to dogs under Section 1(2)(b)	Proceeded against	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Found guilty	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Offences in relation to dogs under Section 1(2)(d)	Proceeded against	7	11	9	4	3	2	2	3	1	7	16
	Found guilty	2	6	6	2	2	—	1	3	—	5	15
Offences in relation to dogs under Section1(2)(e)	Proceeded against	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
	Found guilty	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offences in relation to dogs under Section 1(3)	Proceeded against	23	12	5	4	6	1	5	11	8	87	117
	Found guilty	8	5	2	2	2	1	2	7	5	62	95

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, England and Wales, 1998 to 2008[1,2]

		Defendants										
		1998	*1999*	*2000*[3]	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[4]
Offences in relation to dogs under Section 3(1)	Proceeded against	248	254	266	278	284	329	290	278	278	341	356
	Found guilty	125	126	130	157	150	171	167	168	160	205	239
Offences in relation to dogs under Section 3(3)	Proceeded against	12	9	24	20	18	20	11	24	19	22	20
	Found guilty	8	5	13	14	7	10	5	9	11	15	10
Offences in relation to dogs under Dangerous Dogs Act Section 4(8) and Protection of Badgers Act 1992 Section 13	Proceeded against	6	30	23	39	29	20	22	16	12	10	14
	Found guilty	6	18	16	31	23	12	18	9	4	5	11
Total	Proceeded against	764	802	823	886	922	988	990	1,025	1,077	1,193	1,247
	Found guilty	406	442	446	522	517	531	582	625	668	782	889

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

[4] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit, Ministry of Justice

Fish

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what his estimate is of the proportion of fish procured by the public sector which has stewardship council certification; [318031]

(2) which public sector organisations have implemented the public sector procurement initiative guidance on procuring sustainable fish to date. [318032]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Data from the 2007-08 financial year as reported in the publication 'Proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and National Offender Management Service (previously HM Prison Service)' show that of the 18 Departments for which we have information, five source 100 per cent. of fish from managed sources and a further seven source 70 per cent. or more of their fish from managed sources. The average of the figures provided is 70 per cent.. A 'managed source' is defined here as managed and harvested in ways that do not lead to over-fishing or depletion of exploited populations, e.g. are covered under standards and schemes such as organic certification and Marine Stewardship Council.

The Departments which reported more than 70 per cent. of fish from managed sources were: DCMS, DCSF, DEFRA, DFID, DCLG, BIS, DFT, DWP, HMT, MOJ, NHS Supply Chain, MOD.

Data on the use of the guidance by wider public sector are not available.

Parrots: Animal Welfare

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what minimum standards and size of caging his Department has set for parrots under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. [317532]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are no minimum cage sizes for parrots under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Under the Act owners must provide for the welfare needs of their animals and this includes a suitable environment.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to improve the *(a)* coverage and *(b)* consistency of its long-term monitoring of the marine environment. [317959]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In response to the recommendations from 'Charting Progress', the Government's State of the Seas Report published in 2005, the UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (UKMMAS) was created. The UKMMAS comprises of approximately 250 stakeholders from more than 20 organisations, including Government Departments and devolved Administrations, and has developed a co-ordinated approach to marine monitoring across the UK as a whole.

UKMMAS co-ordinates and brings together data, including that of long-term monitoring, from a large variety of sources. It is currently involved in producing 'Charting Progress 2'—the second integrated assessment of the state of UK seas, which is internationally peer-reviewed. This is scheduled for publication in July 2010.

DEFRA also funds a number of research projects and data initiatives, some of which have helped continue important data series so that we can make assessments of marine trends over time and monitor progress. One such project, funded since 2002, is the Marine Environmental Change Network (MECN). The network consists of UK and Isle of Man organisations working together to collect long-term time series information for marine waters. It also brings together scientists working on various components of marine ecosystems, enabling them to share data and carry out more robust analysis of trends. One of the project aims is to be able to analyse marine environmental change over long periods and determine what is being driven by humans (anthropogenic change) and what change is due to natural variation.

The Government have recently published the first UK Marine Science Strategy, produced by the Marine Science Co-ordination Committee (MSCC). The strategy recognises the key importance of sustained observations to marine science and includes a commitment by the Committee to work with others to develop a prioritisation framework to ensure the provision of secure, long-term data sets. This action is being taken forward by the MSCC's Long-Term Monitoring Working Group.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the executive agencies for which he is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in (i) his Department and (ii) the executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [317895]

Paul Goggins: A total of 49 staff (3.4 per cent.) in the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) and 36 staff (4.2 per cent.) in its executive agencies have advised the Department that they have a disability.

The following table gives details the average basic salary costs for all general service staff in the NIO. Staff are paid in line with the pay scale for each grade irrespective of whether or not they have a disability. All staff who work reduced hours receive a pro-rata amount based on hours worked.

Grade	*Northern Ireland civil servants*	*Home civil servants*
		£
SCS (Pay Band 1)	66,728	66,728
Grade A	44,741	44,568
Grade B1	33,475	34,360
Grade B2	26,729	27,013
Grade C	21,048	22,064
Grade D1	15,878	16,385
Grade D2	13,401	14,214
Industrial	14,034	n/a

HEALTH

Smoking Ban

15. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to extend the areas in which the smoking ban operates. [317485]

Gillian Merron: We have no plans at present to extend the areas required to be smoke free in accordance with the Health Act 2006.

We gave a commitment to review the smoke free law after three years and that review will be carried out later this year.

Breast Cancer Research

16. **Martin Linton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future funding of breast cancer research; and if he will make a statement. [317486]

Ann Keen: The Government (along with their research partners) invest substantially in breast cancer research. That investment will continue.

NHS Treatment: Waiting Times

17. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the median waiting time was for *(a)* in-patient and *(b)* out-patient NHS treatment (i) in 2005 and (ii) on the latest date for which figures are available. [317487]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The median waiting time for in-patient admissions was 8.5 weeks in March 2005, and 4.9 weeks in December 2009, which is the latest date for which figures are available. The median waiting time for first out-patient appointment in March 2005 was 4.8 weeks, and 3.4 weeks in December 2009.

Respite Care

18. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the extent to which primary care trusts use funding provided to them for respite care for carers. [317488]

Phil Hope: The Department of Health does not determine how PCTs spend their money. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to decide their priorities for investment locally, taking into account their local circumstances and priorities as set out in the NHS Operating Framework.

However, the Department's Directors of NHS Performance and Adult Social Care Performance recently wrote to Strategic Health Authority Directors of Performance asking them to identify those PCTs that have agreed with their local authority to prioritise carers' support for the current year and those that are likely to prioritise it for the next year. The information will help ensure we have a rounded picture when considering the priority afforded carers in future planning rounds. I am placing a copy of the letter in the Library in the House.

NHS Service Provision

19. **Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the balance between public and private sector provision of NHS services; and if he will make a statement. [317489]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There is no target for the balance between public or private provision of NHS services. The balance must be driven by the best interests of patients and citizens. The NHS is the preferred provider, but we recognise the important contribution of the independent and third sectors where they can add capacity, drive up quality, increase patient choice and enable innovation.

Alcoholic Drinks: Pricing

20. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect of the pricing of alcoholic drinks on the level of alcohol abuse; and if he will make a statement. [317490]

Gillian Merron: In 2008, an independent review by Sheffield university found a link between cheap alcohol, increased consumption and harm.

We are determined to take action while respecting the rights of responsible consumers and are doing further research.

We are already banning the worst irresponsible promotions such as 'all you can drink for £10'.

Health Protection Agency: Product Registration

21. **Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether registration of products manufactured by the Health Protection Agency at the Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response at Porton Down is tied to the site of manufacture. [317491]

Gillian Merron: The address of the registration holder for a medicinal product licence and the address for the site of manufacture can be, and often are, different. Either address can be changed using the formal process of a variation submission to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, the Department's medicines agency.

National Curriculum: First Aid Training

22. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on the introduction of first aid training as part of the national curriculum. [317492]

Ann Keen: We have had no recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families.

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families announced on 28 April 2009 that personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education will form part of the statutory curriculum from 2011.

Under the current non-statutory provisions, at key stages 1 and 2 children learn about some basic aspects of first aid; the programme of study for PSHE at key stage 3 includes ways of recognising and reducing risk, minimising harm and getting help in emergency and risky situations; at key stage 4 it includes how to use basic and emergency first aid. It is for schools to retain flexibility over how topics included within PSHE should be delivered to meet the needs of their pupils.

Nursing Care

24. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to improve standards of nursing care in hospitals. [317494]

Ann Keen: We have developed a number of important systems to improve the standard of nursing care in hospitals including the introduction of senior clinical roles such as modern matrons and nurse consultants. These are having a real impact, as patient surveys continue to demonstrate.

Melanoma

25. **Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in England were diagnosed with melanoma between 1997 and 2007. [317495]

Ann Keen: Between 1997 and 2007, there were 74,967 newly diagnosed cases of melanoma in England.

Asthma: Drugs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of medication prescribed could be used to treat asthma-related conditions in each of the last five years. [316987]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The table provides the number of prescription items dispensed in the community, in England, overall, together with the number for asthma drugs and the percentage this represents of overall drugs dispensed.

Number of prescription items dispensed in the community, in England, for drugs used to treat asthma, as defined in the British National Formulary (BNF)

Calendar year	Number of items dispensed overall (thousand)	Number of items of asthma drugs (thousand)	Percentage of total items dispensed used to treat asthma (percentage)
2004	686,138.9	37,385.6	5.4
2005	720,283.2	38,232.0	5.3
2006	751,954.1	38,869.5	5.2
2007	796,298.0	40,112.2	5.0
2008	842,502.2	42,366.4	5.0

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system

Asthma drugs are defined as those listed within BNF sections 3.1.1 Adrenoceptor agonists, 3.1.2 Antimuscarinic bronchodilators, 3.1.3 Theophylline, 3.2 Corticosteroids, 3.3.1 Cromoglicate and related therapy, 3.3.2 Leukotriene receptor antagonists and 3.4.2 Allergen Immunotherapy. Some of these medicines are also indicated for conditions other than asthma.

Autism: Health Services

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received in relation to his proposed autism strategy. [318141]

Phil Hope: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Andy Burnham) and I have recently and independently met Mark Lever, chief executive of the National Autistic Strategy and Chair of the External Reference Group, and the hon. Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs. Gillan) to discuss the development of the autism strategy.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the executive agencies for which he is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in (i) his Department and (ii) the executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [317892]

Phil Hope: The information requested was published in the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES) statistics produced by the Office for National Statistics on 20 January 2010. This can found at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/cs0110.pdf

The relevant Annexes of the document have been placed in the Library.

Because disability is voluntarily self-reported and the fact that there is a subset of civil servants whose disability status is unknown or undeclared, care should be exercised when drawing conclusions based on these statistics.

Care should also be exercised when making comparisons of salaries between part-time and full-time disabled and non-disabled staff. For example, a simple comparison of median salary by disability status and working pattern does not take account of the different responsibility levels of the individuals concerned.

Drugs: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on health of the combination of polydrug and alcohol abuse by those under the age of 18 years old. [317552]

Gillian Merron: The health effects of drug use, including polydrug use, and alcohol abuse are set out in the 2008 Drug Strategy, "Drugs: protecting families and communities" and can be found on the Home Office website at:

http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/drug-strategy/overview/

This includes greater levels of ill-health or risk-taking behaviour leading to accidents, infection or pregnancy, with the potential for mental health problems and psychosis, developmental damage and even overdose or death.

Health Services: Derby

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what work the Co-operation and Competition Panel is carrying out in relation to proposals for the re-organisation of community services in Derby; and if he will make a statement. [317002]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We understand that the Co-operation and Competition Panel (CCP) is not undertaking any work in relation to proposals for the re-organisation of community services in Derby, following Derby City primary care trust's decision to revise its plans for divestment of community services and therefore to withdraw its merger notification. Up-to-date details of the casework currently under investigation by the CCP are available on its website at:

www.ccpanel.org.uk

NHS: Expenditure

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what indications for planning purposes his Department has given to strategic health authorities in England for NHS spending for the next *(a)* three and *(b)* five years in (i) cash and (ii) real terms; and what assumptions have been made for (A) inflation and (B) efficiency savings. [317988]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department set out financial planning assumptions for the national health service in the NHS "Operating Framework for England 2010-11" published in December 2009. A copy of this has already been placed in the Library.

As an interim step, the 2009 pre-Budget report announced that value for money savings of around £10 billion per year will be delivered by 2012-13 through the work under way within the NHS, and through the Public Value Programme (PVP), Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP), and other value for money initiatives.

"NHS 2010-2015: From Good to Great" set out the approach to identifying and delivering these savings.

The Department bases its assumptions about general inflation on the forecasts which HM Treasury publishes for the gross domestic product (GDP) deflator on its website. The following table sets out HM Treasury forecasts for GDP deflator increases at the pre-Budget report 2009 for 2010-11 to 2013-14.

Financial year	*Forecast GDP deflator (Percentage)*
2010-11	2¾
2011-12	1½
2012-13	2½
2013-14	2¾

Strokes: Health Services

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to implement the proposals of the English Stroke Strategy on psychological support and regular reviews for everyone who has had a stroke. [317928]

Ann Keen: The National Stroke Strategy, published in 2007, recognised the need to develop long-term psychological and emotional support for stroke survivors with a co-ordinated approach across health and social care. To accelerate improvements in stroke care, the Department's National Quality Board has established a sub-group that will focus on joint working across the health and social care interface and on improving access to psychological support across all long-term conditions including stroke.

Strokes: Mental Health

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of cases of *(a)* stroke, *(b)* dementia and *(c)* depression per 1,000 of the population; and in how many such cases the consumption of alcohol is estimated to be a direct causal factor. [316297]

Gillian Merron: No estimate has been made of the number of cases of stroke, dementia, depression, heart disease or cancer of the mouth, oesophagus, larynx or breast per 1,000 of the population.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the *(a)* Government Equalities Office and *(b)* Equality and Human Rights Commission has spent on font licensing since its creation. [315533]

Michael Jabez Foster: Neither *(a)* the Government Equalities Office or *(b)* the Equality and Human Rights Commission has incurred expenditure on font licensing.

Departmental Information Officers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many *(a)* press officers and *(b)* communications staff were employed by the Government Equalities Office in each year since it was established; and what the cost of employing these staff was in each such year. [309928]

Michael Jabez Foster: The number of staff employed and salary costs since GEO was established in October 2007 are set out in the table. These numbers reflect staff changes during the years, including a number of temporary press officers on short-term contracts while recruitment exercises were undertaken. A more meaningful figure is the number of press officer and communications staff posts and these are shown in brackets.

GEO Division	*Press officers*	*Communications staff*
2007-08[1]		
Number of staff	3(2)	3(3)
Total salary costs (£)	5,738	19,064
2008-09		
Number of staff	5(3)	8(3)
Total salary costs (£)	151,038	187,954
2009-10[2]		
Number of staff	8(6)	6(4)
Total salary costs (£)	213,708	185,652

[1] 12 October 2007 to 31 March 2008

[2] As at 31 December 2009

On its establishment in October 2007 the GEO supported two Ministers. The GEO now supports four Ministers and the increase in the number of press and communications posts since March 2009 reflects this.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 57W, on departmental pay, how many staff in the Department received both an annual performance bonus and an in-year bonus in 2008-09; what proportion of the total workforce they represented; what the largest combined bonus payment to an individual was; and who was responsible for awarding such bonuses. [313125]

Michael Jabez Foster: In the financial year 2008-09, 10 GEO members of staff received both an in-year bonus and an annual performance bonus. This total represented 9.5 per cent. of the total work force. The highest combined total awarded was £1,250. Special bonuses are agreed by GEO's senior management team through nominations made by line managers. Annual performance bonuses are agreed through the Department's end of year staff reporting process.

CABINET OFFICE

Cancer

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what estimate she has made of the number of people per 1,000 expected to develop cancer of the *(a)* mouth, *(b)* oesophagus and *(c)* larynx; and in how many such cases the consumption of alcohol is expected to be a direct causal factor; [316298]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of people per 1,000 expected to develop *(a)* breast cancer and *(b)* heart disease; and in how many such cases the consumption of alcohol is expected to be a direct causal factor. [316299]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

No estimate has been made of the number of cases of stroke, dementia, depression, heart disease or cancer of the mouth, oesophagus, larynx or breast per 1,000 of the population.

TREASURY

Alcoholic Drinks: Fraud

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated total cost is of delivering the alcohol fraud strategy. [316990]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Estimates of expenditure on activity to tackle alcohol fraud in 2007-08 and 2008-09 total approximately £22 million. The projected cost for 2009-10 indicates an increase in HMRC and UKBA expenditure of around 12 per cent., to approximately £25 million. This reflects the introduction of new enforcement capabilities, such as specialist teams to carry out civil investigations of fraud, and the establishment of a dedicated inland detection force.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of links between alcohol fraud and serious organised crime. [316992]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There are no estimates available for the proportion of alcohol duty losses attributable to serious organised crime, compared to other forms of fraud. However, HMRC assessments of the threats to the alcohol regime suggest that organised criminality has become a significant element in the fraud. HMRC's response, with other law enforcement agencies, is to target these criminals and the networks through which they operate to disrupt, dismantle, penalise and wherever possible prosecute those involved.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the relationship between the levels of alcohol duties and levels of alcohol fraud. [316993]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No assessment has been made of the relationship between the levels of alcohol duties and levels of alcohol fraud.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the executive agencies for which he is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in (i) his Department and (ii) the executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [317905]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested can be found in the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES) published by the Office for National Statistics on 20 January 2010 and available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/cs0110.pdf

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many layers of management reporting from the most senior to the most junior there are in his Department and each of its agencies; how many officials are employed in each such layer; and how much was spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff at each such layer in the latest year for which information is available. [312818]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury and the Office of Government Commerce operate pay ranges in line with civil service guidelines. Staff at all layers within each organisation's pay grading structure may have management responsibilities, except those at the lowest grade; not all staff in any pay grade will have management responsibilities. Where data relate to fewer than five staff, pay ranges have been combined. The UK Debt Management Office does not use comparable pay ranges.

The following tables give the information requested for HM Treasury, the Office of Government Commerce and the UK Debt Management Office, showing the number of posts at each management grade or level.

Table 1: HM Treasury full-time equivalent staff by pay range as at April 2009 (annualised costs)

	Staff (FTE)	*Cost (£ million)*
Perm Sec and SCS 3	7.0	1.1
SCS 2	18.9	2.4
SCS 1	81.9	7.9
Range E	376.0	22.9
Range D	439.0	15.4
Range C	162.0	4.9

Table 2: Office of Government Commerce 2008-09 average full-time equivalent staff by pay range

	Staff (FTE)	*Cost (£ million)*
Perm Sec, SCS3 and SCS 2	5.6	1.0
SCS 1	23.6	2.9
Band 6	54.2	4.3
Band 5	63.8	3.9
Band 4	37.4	1.7
Band 3	28.8	1.0
Band 2	19.7	0.6

Table 3: UK Debt Management Office average full-time equivalent permanent staff 2008-09 average by management level

	Staff (FTE)	*Cost (£ million)*
Executive board members	<5	0.6
Team leaders	16.6	1.7

Departmental Travel

Mr. Watson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the travel guidance issued to staff of each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies. [314927]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Copies of the travel and subsistence guidance covering HM Treasury and the Office of Government Commerce and the Debt Management Office have been deposited in the Library of the House.

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department paid to the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last five years; how much it has spent on such payments in 2009-10; and what proportion of such payments was made in respect of the Government Car Service. [316422]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Costs to Departments of ministerial cars are reported annually to Parliament by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport through written ministerial statements and are available in the Libraries of the House.

Details of spending on other GCDA services for the five years prior to 2009-10 are £5,669 (2008-09), £5,329 (2007-08), £4,804 (2006-07), £5,505 (2005-06) and £6,611 (2004-05). Figures for spending in 2009-10 will be available following the publication of the audited accounts.

Inheritance Tax: Glasgow

John Mason: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Treasury received from inheritance tax from estates in Glasgow East constituency in the last five years. [316754]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available at a sub-regional level. Inheritance tax data are based on a UK-wide sample of cases which is designed to produce national level figures and the size of the sample means that we could not currently estimate tax receipts reliably at constituency level.

Inheritance Tax: Perthshire

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Exchequer received from inheritance tax from estates in Perth and North Perthshire constituency over the last five years. [317921]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available at a sub-regional level. Inheritance tax data are based on a UK-wide sample of cases which are designed to produce national level figures and the size of the sample means that we could not currently estimate tax receipts reliably at constituency level.

National Insurance Contributions: Local Government

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 918W, on national insurance contributions: local government, what estimate he has made of the likely change to revenue to the Exchequer arising from changes to national insurance contributions for local government employees in each of the next three years. [317872]

Mr. Timms: Information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, due to the work required to provide it.

The Exchequer effect of the announced changes to the national insurance system for the next three years can be found in the 2008 pre-Budget report in Table 1.2 Estimated costs for pre-Budget report policy decisions and others announced since Budget 2008 and the equivalent table in the 2009 pre-Budget report, are available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08_chapter1_379.pdf

and

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr09_chapter1.pdf

respectively.

Non-Domestic Rates

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many hereditaments were deleted from the Valuation Office Agency's rating list due to demolition in each of the last five years. [317881]

Ian Pearson: The Valuation Office Agency intends to publish by 31 May 2010 information relating to movement within the 2005 rating lists, including the number of properties deleted due to demolition.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Angus Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Exchequer received from stamp duty land tax in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* postcode area in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [318003]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of stamp duty land tax receipts by UK parliamentary constituency are published at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table15-5-0708.pdf

and

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table15-5-0809.pdf

for 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively.

Estimates of stamp duty land tax receipts by UK local authority are published at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table15-4-0708.pdf

and

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table15-4-0809.pdf

for 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively.

Estimates of stamp duty land tax receipts by parliamentary constituency and local authority for 2009-10 will be published in September.

Stamp duty land tax receipt estimates by postcode area could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Valuation office

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will direct the Valuation Office Agency to take steps to reduce the financial effects on port businesses of its retrospective revaluation of hereditaments in ports. [316868]

Ian Pearson: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has a statutory duty to maintain the rating lists. When the VOA becomes aware a change is needed they are under an obligation to take action to alter the rating list in accordance with the legislation. It would be inappropriate for the Agency to be directed to not undertake its statutory obligation.

The Government have listened to the concerns of businesses with significant and unexpected backdated bills, including some businesses within ports. They have legislated to enable such bills to be repaid over an unprecedented eight years rather than in a single instalment, helping affected businesses to manage the impact on their cash flows during the downturn by reducing the amount they are required to pay now.

VAT

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his most recent estimate is of the revenue lost in a year through the non-payment of value added tax and excise duty on *(a)* wine, *(b)* spirits and *(c)* tobacco; [316988]

(2) what his latest estimate is of the proportion of wine in the UK market which is sold fraudulently without value added tax and excise duty having been paid. [316989]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not currently have an estimate for the level of fraud in wine.

The most recent estimate of the revenue lost for spirits and tobacco was published in "Measuring Tax Gaps—2009" in November 2009 and is available in the House of Commons Library and can be found on the internet at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps.htm

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Adjudicator's Office has recommended in relation to tax credit cases that HM Revenue and Customs *(a)* pay in compensation to claimants, *(b)* forgo in tax and interest and *(c)* write off in overpaid tax credits since March 2008. [317178]

Mr. Timms: From 1 April 2008 the Adjudicator's Office recommended that HMRC pay £280,093 in compensation relating to tax credit cases and recommended £3,523,457 of overpayment to be written off. Interest is not generally chargeable on tax credit cases. The Adjudicators Office has not made recommendations with regard to forgoing tax or interest in relation to tax credit cases.

TRANSPORT

A1(M): Hatfield

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects the refurbishment of the Hatfield tunnel on the A1(M) to be completed, with all carriageways open and the temporary speed restriction removed. [317522]

Chris Mole: The refurbishment of the Hatfield Tunnel on the A1(M) is expected to be completed, with all carriageways open and the temporary restrictions removed, by May 2011.

Pilots: Licensing

Mr. Todd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans he has to maintain the quality of pilot licensing within a single European qualification. [318524]

Paul Clark: The European Aviation Safety Agency is now responsible for establishing the standards for pilot licensing in the EU. EASA consulted on draft implementing rules on pilot licensing in 2008. The Department for Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority have responded to this consultation. The draft implementing rules were largely based on existing standards and are not intended to alter the quality of pilot licensing. The United Kingdom is represented on the EU committee which will agree the final rules.

The national aviation authorities of member states will continue to be responsible for issuing pilots' licences. They will be subject to standardisation audits by EASA to ensure that implementing rules are correctly applied.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many local councils received extra supplies of *(a)* salt and *(b)* grit from the Salt Cell's reallocation of supplies in the last two months; and how much was supplied to each of them. [316886]

Mr. Khan: From 6 January the Salt Cell has provided advice to salt suppliers on how to prioritise deliveries. This advice is based upon information provided by highway authorities on their stock levels and weather forecasts from the Met Office. However, it is a matter for the salt suppliers to decide what deliveries they make.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much road *(a)* salt and *(b)* grit was imported in each of the last 12 years. [316889]

Mr. Khan: This information is not collected centrally.

SCOTLAND

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what proportion of staff in his Department are disabled; and what the average salary in his Department is of *(a)* full-time disabled staff, *(b)* full-time non-disabled staff, *(c)* part-time disabled staff and *(d)* part-time non-disabled staff. [317896]

Ann McKechin: Staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or on assignment from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) who retain any self-declared and voluntary information on disability. The Office's annual report for 2008-09 indicates that we have a small number of staff with disabilities but, for privacy reasons, the actual numbers are considered confidential.

Details on average salaries of staff are not available in the form requested.

WALES

Devolution: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) when he plans to reply to the First Minister's letter to him on a referendum on National Assembly for Wales powers; and if he will publish his response; [318291]

(2) on what date he received a letter from the First Minister of the Welsh Assembly Government on a referendum on further powers for the National Assembly for Wales; and if he will publish the letter. [318292]

Mr. Hain: I received the First Minister's notification of a resolution under section 104 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 on 17 February 2010 and I responded on 22 February 2010.

I have placed both letters in the Library of the House.

DEFENCE

Air Force: Manpower

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many RAF personnel there were of each rank in each year since 1997. [308760]

Bill Rammell: The number of RAF personnel of each rank in each year from 1997 to 2008 is listed as follows. The figures include all personnel in the RAF both trained and untrained as of 18 December 2009.

Due to ongoing validation of the Joint Personnel Administration System (JPA) all RAF strengths in 2008-09 are provisional and subject to review. All figures in the table below the rank of Group Captain have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Rank	As at 1 April each year						
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Air Chief Marshal	5	4	4	3	2	3	4
Air Marshal	8	7	7	8	8	7	7
Air Vice-Marshal	34	32	31	32	31	31	29
Air Commodore	95	92	92	98	96	90	88
Group Captain	330	340	330	330	340	340	340
Wing Commander	1,130	1,160	1,160	1,220	1,270	1,280	1,280
Squadron Leader	2,990	3,020	3,000	2,960	3,030	3,030	3,080
Flight Lieutenant	5,280	5,060	4,580	4,820	4,580	4,520	4,510
Flying Officer/Pilot Officer/Officer Designate	1,170	1,270	1,400	1,510	1,610	1,610	1,620
Warrant Officer	1,260	1,210	1,160	1,150	1,160	1,170	1,190
Flight Sergeant/Chief Technician	4,270	4,310	4,160	4,050	4,110	3,930	3,860
Sergeant	8,040	8,120	8,120	7,930	7,860	7,790	7,620
Corporal	11,860	11,340	10,940	10,340	10,210	10,190	10,110
Junior Technician/Leading Aircraftsman/Senior Aircraftsman	18,660	17,730	17,510	17,730	16,600	16,030	15,950
Aircraftsman	1,730	2,170	2,420	2,530	2,810	2,980	3,550

Rank	As at 1 April each year					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Air Chief Marshal	4	4	2	4	[1]3	[1]3
Air Marshal	4	8	8	6	[1]6	[1]9
Air Vice-Marshal	34	27	27	30	[1]25	[1]24
Air Commodore	90	92	92	95	[1]94	[1]90
Group Captain	360	340	320	310	[1]310	[1]330
Wing Commander	1,290	1,320	1,270	1,240	[1]1,220	[1]1,200
Squadron Leader	3,030	2,870	2,780	2,660	[1]2,630	[1]2,570
Flight Lieutenant	4,510	4,650	4,630	4,420	[1]4,160	[1]4,050
Flying Officer/Pilot Officer/Officer Designate	1,650	1,310	1,180	1,120	[1]1,230	[1]1,500
Warrant Officer	1,200	1,200	1,210	1,180	[1]1,130	[1]1,190
Flight Sergeant/Chief Technician	3,920	3,900	3,670	3,480	[1]3,300	[1]3,190
Sergeant	7,660	7,660	7,430	6,910	[1]6,560	[1]6,270
Corporal	10,070	10,070	9,790	9,120	[1]8,760	[1]8,460
Junior Technician/Leading Aircraftsman/Senior Aircraftsman	16,100	16,430	15,350	13,860	[1]12,350	[1]11,890
Aircraftsman	3,480	2,000	960	930	[1]1,630	[1]2,800

[1] Provisional

RAF personnel numbers have reduced over the period since 1997 in line with strategic reviews. The Strategic Defence Review (published 1998) sought to shift UK defence forces away from a largely cold war defence posture based on maintaining heavily equipped forces in Western Europe towards lighter, expeditionary forces capable of deploying across the world. It also marked a shift towards 'joint' defence forces and a greater use of advanced technology. Subsequent strategic reviews have continued these trends.

Moreover, as the 2004 Defence White Paper "Delivering Security in a Changing World" made clear,

> 'the effectiveness of modern precision weapons and sensors, which can be used in all weathers, day and night, mean that highly accurate air delivered offensive effects can be achieved with fewer fast jets than before. Similarly the air threat to deployed forces has greatly reduced and the capability of our air superiority aircraft and other air defence assets is continuing to improve. So we need fewer aircraft and fewer ground-based air defence systems to meet the threat'.

The bulk of the RAF's manpower reductions has been at lower level ranks (Senior Aircraftsman and Corporal). These were mainly achieved through efficiency improvements including multi-skilling of engineering personnel and contractorisation of posts in service trades where these ranks are prevalent.

Armed Forces: Injuries

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many triple amputees are in the armed forces; [316994]

(2) how many amputees in the armed forces have been sent to the US for medical treatment in the last three years; [316995]

(3) how much his Department spent on sending armed forces amputees to the US for medical treatment in each of the last three years. [316996]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence has committed to publishing on a quarterly basis the numbers of service personnel who have suffered limb amputations as a result of injuries sustained while on operational deployment, and Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) published figures up to the end of 2009 on 12 February 2010, available on its website at:

www.dasa.mod.uk

These figures will include partial or complete limb amputees. In order to protect patient confidentiality, those who have suffered limb amputations above the wrist or ankle on more than one limb will be reported annually as "significant multiple amputees".

Injured UK service personnel who require prosthetic limbs attend the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court in Surrey, where they are supplied with tailor-made prostheses with state of the art componentry which is matched to their clinical needs.

The Defence Medical Services (DMS) keep in touch with developments in rehabilitation in other countries, including the United States, and assess new developments carefully to judge fully their potential benefits for our people. To date the DMS have not referred any amputees to the United States for their medical treatment, although a few individual amputees have attended private US facilities of their own volition and without cost to the Department. No personnel have been forced to receive treatment in the USA, and until alternative treatments and rehabilitation regimes have been fully evaluated it would be inappropriate to deviate from current, clinically proven approaches.

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are disabled; and what the average salary of (i) full-time disabled staff, (ii) full-time non-disabled staff, (iii) part-time disabled staff and (iv) part-time non-disabled staff is in (A) his Department and (B) its agencies. [317888]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the table of statistics taken from the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey published by the Office for National Statistics on 20 January 2010 and available at the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/cs0110.pdf

Ex-servicemen

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what support is provided by his Department to military personnel upon discharge in respect of *(a)* trauma and psychological problems, *(b)* alcohol abuse and *(c)* drug abuse. [317793]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Since 1948, it has been successive Governments' policy that the NHS should be the main provider of health care for veterans and for the majority of veterans their mental health needs are fully met by current NHS provisions. The Department of Health and devolved Administrations with support from the Ministry of Defence and Combat Stress have launched six mental health pilots around the United Kingdom. The aim of the pilots is to deliver a service which provides expert assessment and interventions and which is acceptable to veterans.

Veterans who do not live near one of the regional schemes can access the Medical Assessment programme (MAP) which is available to veterans who were deployed on operations since 1982. The MAP offers comprehensive physical and mental health assessments for veterans who feel that their ill-health may be linked to military service.

In addition, we will be providing grant funding of £140,000, which Combat Stress are matching, to work directly with mental health trusts to ensure that the services they provide are accessible to and appropriate for military veterans.

The Department has issued guidance to commanders on substance misuse and all three services have robust drug and alcohol policies in place. Service personnel identified by the chain of command as being at risk of alcohol misuse receive counselling and welfare support. This can include attendance on preventative early intervention programmes designed to alert them to the harm that alcohol can cause to themselves and others. More serious cases are treated through specialist medical and psychological treatment and rehabilitation, including where appropriate as in-patients. Service leavers are also given literature covering a range of issues including details of national alcohol and drug helplines.

Military Aircraft: Training

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the simulation of the 1994 Chinook accident by test pilot Squadron Leader Robert Burke was abandoned prior to its completion; and if he will make a statement. [309997]

Bill Rammell: The test with which Squadron Leader Burke concerned himself was being undertaken by RAF technicians at the request of the Air Accident Investigation Branch, without a requirement for his assistance. The work was not abandoned after Squadron Leader Burke was told not to take any further part.

Navy: Haiti

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the capacity of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel Largs Bay's capacity was full at the point at which the vessel departed Southampton for Haiti in February 2010. [316979]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* Royal Fleet Auxiliary Largs Bay departed for Haiti on 3 February carrying 595 linear metres of relief supplies and equipment, including the required cargo handling and beach landing capabilities. This represents approximately 60 per cent. of the capacity available. Residual space is required to assist with the movement of supplies and equipment within the cargo hold in anticipation of changing disbursement priorities on arrival.

The operational considerations about which supplies and equipment to take included an assessment of materials that could be ordered and delivered in time to ensure that the most urgently required aid would get to Haiti. The priority was items not easily transported by air but critical to the immediate humanitarian relief effort. These include fork lift trucks, four-wheel drive vehicles and corrugated sheeting.

In addition to delivering relief supplies, RFA Largs Bay has also been deployed to provide specialised capabilities to assist with the wider United Nations-led relief effort in Haiti. Delaying departure to allow supplies to be delivered for loading needed to be balanced with the urgency of getting the ship to the vicinity of Haiti to unload and begin these wider tasks.

RAF

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes have been made since 1994 to the rules under which deceased Royal Air Force aircrew can be found guilty of gross negligence; whether a finding of gross negligence could have been made in respect of the Chinook crash if the current rules had applied at the time of the crash; and if he will make a statement. [310015]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 January 2010]:* In 1997 the relevant service regulations were changed to remove the express attribution of blame and although Boards of Inquiry were still able to find that "human factors" were the reason for an accident, any questions of culpability on the part of aircrew would be dealt with separately through the disciplinary or administrative action system, if appropriate. If these rules had been in force at the time of the Chinook accident the Board of Inquiry could not have made a finding of gross negligence. With the introduction of a new system of Service Inquiries in October 2008 under the Armed Forces Act 2006 which brought in procedures common across all three services and replaced the old Board of Inquiry system, the rules continued the principle that Service Inquiries are not to explicitly attribute blame or legal liability. If any question of culpability were to arise, it would have to be dealt with through the disciplinary system, although clearly this would not arise in the case of deceased personnel.

Territorial Army

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 23, on the Territorial Army, for what reason drill nights at the 38 (Irish) Brigade Regional training Centre at Ballykinler, County Down remain suspended. [316444]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 9 February 2010]:* The Regional Training Centre at Ballykinler, County Down, is not normally used as a venue for Territorial Army training nights. However, a phase 1 training course originally scheduled to run at the Centre over six weekends was recently cancelled. The cancellation of this particular course was a local decision which was contrary to the directive issued by the Government following the decision taken in October 2009 to reinstate routine Territorial Army activity for the remainder of the financial year. The reasons for this are being investigated and the training will be reinstated. This training does not affect any personnel committed to operations and the course will be reinstated.

Veterans' Challenge Fund

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* budget, *(b)* expenditure on administration and *(c)* expenditure on grants has been of the Veterans' Challenge Fund in each year since its inception. [317637]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Veterans Challenge Fund was established on 1 April 2003. Since then it has provided funding to prime projects that support the three pillars of the Veterans Programme (Transition, Support, and Recognition) that are identified in the Veterans Strategy.

Initially a budget of £2 million was set aside to cover a three-year period (2003-06). However, on 28 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 19WS, we announced the extension of the Veterans Challenge Fund past its initial three-year period with an annual allocation of up to £750,000.

Administration of the Veterans Challenge Fund with the MOD is an internal departmental cost with the duties being part of wider responsibilities. These costs are not taken from the budget for the fund.

The following table provides information on expenditure relating to Veterans Challenge Fund grants for each year since 2003.

	Expenditure on grants[1] *(£)*
2003-04	42,000
2004-05	190,000
2005-06	476,000
2006-07	606,000
2007-08	431,000
2008-09	661,000
Total	2,046,000

[1] Figures have been rounded to nearest thousand.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which projects have been supported by the Veterans' Challenge Fund in each year since its inception; and how much funding has been allocated to each such project in each such year. [317638]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is not held in the format requested.

Since its launch in July 2003 the Veterans Challenge Fund has provided funding to a total of 98 projects in a number of areas including homelessness, prison in-reach and research into suicide among veterans. Projects that have benefited from our contributions have gone to make a significant difference to the veterans community.

The following table provides information relating to the number of projects undertaken for each year.

	Number of projects
2003-04	24
2004-05	13
2005-06	29
2006-07	17
2007-08	11
2008-09	4
Total	98

Costs relating to a specific project may span a financial year and may be complex through their reliance on a number of other funding factors reaching maturity at the same time. Determining the amounts for each project would require a manual search of records and incur disproportionate cost.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Freedom of Information: Costs

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the cost to the House has been of responding to requests made under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [317263]

Nick Harvey: No records are kept of the specific time spent by staff responding to inquiries. An estimate of the staff cost of handling Freedom of Information Act requests within the Information Rights and Information Security (IRIS) team, who co-ordinate the handling of responses, is £165,000 per annum.

Nurseries

Michael Fabricant: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) what estimate the House of Commons Commission has made of the average daily usage of the proposed nursery by children of *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* staff of the House of Commons Service, *(c)* staff of hon. Members and *(d)* others in its first 12 months of operation; [317123]

(2) what estimate the House of Commons Commission has made of the *(a)* running cost and *(b)* income of the proposed nursery in the first 12 months of its operation. [317124]

Nick Harvey: The nursery is being designed to provide child care for up to 40 children between the ages of birth and five years. According to child care experts, there will be a build-up of usage over a period: the average usage for the first 12 months of a new nursery is likely to be around 40 per cent. No breakdown of usage as between the children of Members and the children of others has been estimated at present: much will depend on the make-up of the next Parliament. The intention in the longer term is to recover the operating costs through the charges made to users. Disclosure of expected operating costs at this stage could undermine the House's position in the commercial competition for a nursery operator.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Nationals Abroad

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of UK citizens living abroad in *(a)* each other EU member state and *(b)* all non-EU countries in (i) 1980, (ii) 1990, (iii) 2000 and (iv) the most recent year for which figures are available. [317719]

David Miliband: Our network of overseas posts has in the past been asked to provide an estimate of the number of British nationals resident in their consular area. The latest figures available are for 2006-07. Figures are also available for 1990 and 2000, but not 1980. The results of each of these surveys are shown in the following table.

Estimated size of the British national community

Country	*2006-07*	*2000*	*1990*
Austria	7,369	7,000	5,100
Belgium	39,867	30,200	28,500
Bulgaria	1,700	325	55
Cyprus	60,000	54,000	18,000
Czech Republic	3,183	0	83
Denmark	13,183	12,630	10,474
Estonia	220	200	—
Finland	4,350	3,200	1,300
France	381,000	156,050	43,000
Germany	115,554	164,324	92,445
Greece	31,470	144,085	21,300
Hungary	2,640	3,000	275
Ireland	112,548	0	50,000
Italy	71,990	61,000	35,000
Latvia	400	200	—
Lithuania	230	160	—
Luxembourg	4,400	5,000	2,894
Malta	6,000	6,000	3,000
Netherlands	73,600	40,000	30,000
Poland	2,531	10,000	881
Portugal	34,624	31,597	16,300
Romania	6,000	3,000	36
Slovakia	1,000	750	—
Slovenia	157	350	—
Spain	840,989	949,550	121,500
Sweden	15,000	17,500	14,000
Non-EU	10,283,651	11,000,718	5,500,000
Total	12,113,756	12,700,839	6,014,143

Note:
Based on overseas posts' estimates of the number of British nationals within their consular area.

Colombia: Political Prisoners

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contact his Department has had with staff of the Colombian embassy in relation to prisoners held for political reasons by the Colombian authorities in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [317799]

Chris Bryant: I raised this issue with the Colombian ambassador last week. We wholly condemn any Government who target or imprison individuals for their political orientation. We are aware of allegations that Colombian individuals are being imprisoned or charged with offences as a result of their political views or activities, and have pointed out to the Colombian authorities that those charged with crimes should have their legal rights fully respected, including the right to a fair trial. However, it is for the Colombian judicial system to assess any such cases, including exercise of the right of habeas corpus.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Government of Colombia on the fate of *(a)* human rights defender Carmelo Agamez Berrio and *(b)* trade unionist Liliany Obando. [317882]

Chris Bryant: We have not made any representations on the case of Carmelo Agamez Berrio.

As for Liliany Obando, we wrote in April 2009 to the Director of the Presidential Human Rights Programme and to the Director of International Affairs at the Prosecutor General's office requesting details about her case. We never received a response from the Director of the Presidential Human Rights Programme. On 25 June 2009, the Prosecutor General's office informed us that Ms Obando's case was going through the last stages of the legal accusatory process. She has been charged with

> "rebellion and the administration of resources related with terrorist activities".

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Minister raised her case personally with Colombian Foreign Minister Bermudez in London last month, and we subsequently received a letter from the Colombian ambassador updating us with the news that there have been three public hearings of her case between August and December 2009, and that two more public hearings were scheduled to happen this week. I am writing to the Colombian Deputy Foreign Minister to further register our continued interest in the case.

Cuba: Politics and Government

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on meeting representatives of the democratic opposition in Cuba. [317110]

Chris Bryant: Our policy towards Cuba remains based on the EU Common Position, which was agreed in 1996 and is reviewed annually at the June European Council. The Common Position sets out inter alia that the EU will

> "intensify the present dialogue with the Cuban authorities and with all sectors of Cuban society in order to promote respect for human rights and real progress towards pluralist democracy".

Following the last review of the EU's Cuba policy in June 2009, all EU member states agreed Council Conclusions which reaffirmed their commitment to the Common Position and the policy of dual track engagement with the Cuban Government and Cuban civil society. On the issue of meeting members of opposition groups in Cuba the Conclusions state:

> "The Council reaffirms that its policy for EU contacts with the peaceful pro-democracy opposition remains valid. During high-level visits, human rights issues should always be addressed; when appropriate, meetings with the peaceful pro-democracy opposition will be part of high level visits. In this context the Council calls upon the Cuban government to allow for unimpeded contacts with civil society in the margin of high level visits".

In line with this policy, our embassy in Havana maintains contacts across the full spectrum of political opinion within Cuba, including the Government and members of civil society and opposition groups; we see it as important in support of this goal to include meetings with opposition figures in high level political visits where appropriate. The last Ministerial visit to Cuba was by my hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell) then Foreign Office Minister in 2005. He met a range of Cuban Government contacts, opposition figures and civil society. Since then, the Cuban Government have made official programmes conditional on Ministers and senior officials not meeting any opposition figures during visits. This has made it difficult to agree programmes for a further visit. We stand ready to organise a high level visit as soon as this precondition is dropped.

Departmental Energy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the estimated *(a)* amount and *(b)* cost was of energy used in his Department and its agencies in each year since 1997; what proportion of the energy used was generated from renewable sources in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [317202]

Chris Bryant: The breakdown of amount and cost of energy for the last five years is summarised in the following table. To provide additional data could only be done at disproportionate cost. The proportion of energy generated from renewable sources is based on "Green" tariffs. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no directly renewable sources of energy.

	Electricity (kWh)	*Gas (kWh)*	*Oil (kWh)*	*Heat (kWh)*	*Total energy (kWh)*	*KCS green tariff (kWh)*	*Percentage of total energy that is green*	*Cost of all energy (£)*
2008-09	28,747,774	1,227,509	4,816,849	6,697,510	41,489,641	6,004,650	14	3,777,830
2007-08	23,524,791	1,153,023	4,280,027	5,677,120	34,634,961	6,481,320	19	2,609,700
2006-07	22,578,615	1,341,891	3,291,842	5,290,430	32,502,778	7,069,812	22	2,820,321
2005-06	20,756,930	1,679,115	4,732,676	7,146,240	34,314,961	7,860,950	23	2,404,570
2004-05	19,457,515	1,616,136	3,878,744	6,636,479	31,588,874	8,117,108	26	1,809,318
Total	115,065,625	7,017,674	21,000,138	31,447,779	174,531,215	35,533,840		13,421,739

Note:
All data are for financial year—April to March

Departmental Travel

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish the travel guidelines issued to staff of each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies. [315145]

Chris Bryant: The British Council publishes its own travel guidelines which are available at:

http://www.britishcouncil.org/new/freedom-of-information/information-guide/policies/staff-policies/travel-and-expenses/

The other agencies and non-departmental public bodies sponsored by the Department have not published their own travel guidelines. However, the guidelines they use are based on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's own travel guidelines. I have placed a summary of these guidelines in the Library of the House.

Diplomatic Service Appeal Board

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the membership is of the Diplomatic Service Appeal Board. [317797]

Chris Bryant: The six former Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) employee members of the Diplomatic Service Appeal Board are as follows:

Ms Philippa Drew CB—Chair
Professor Colin Jennings—Vice Chair
Sir James Hodge KCVO CMG—FCO nominee
Mr. Alan Hunt CMG—FCO nominee
Mr. Philip Grice LVO—Trade union nominee
Mr. John Kelly CMG LVO MBE—Trade union nominee

The two independent members are:

Mrs. Janet Rubin
Ms Susan Jenkins

Embassies: Fees and Charges

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will consider the merits of removing charges for the use of the premises of overseas posts by UK entrepreneurs holding receptions to promote products and services offered by their companies. [317991]

Chris Bryant: Making the most of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's assets, including the effective use of our overseas estate, is kept under close review. Diplomatic staff routinely host entertainment in their official residences and other premises overseas to further the Government's strategic priorities, of which support for the UK economy and British businesses is key. In addition to this normal use of our estate, Heads of Post may offer, subject to a number of considerations including security, the use of their official residences for particular events requested by organisations who are willing to pay for the privilege, on the basis that the revenue earned is re-invested in furthering our strategic objectives. We believe this remains a sensible approach and continues to give value to the British taxpayer.

Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission's scholarship programme. [317758]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* We are content that the Marshall scholarship programme is being run effectively.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on allegations of human rights abuses committed during Operation Cast Lead. [315913]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: From the outset we have called for the very serious allegations around the Gaza conflict to be properly and independently investigated by both sides, including individual incidents and wider operational choices. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made this clear to Prime Minister Netanyahu ahead of the UN Human Rights Council Special Session on Gaza. Most recently, I raised it in my meeting, on 9 February 2010, with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made an assessment of the merits of entering the Trident system into multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations prior to the start of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty review conference in May 2010. [317577]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK firmly believes that sustainable global nuclear disarmament can only be achieved through a multilateral process, and stands ready to engage in a future broader multilateral process when the conditions are right. The UK is actively working to create these conditions and is playing a leading role globally in the nuclear disarmament debate. These conditions include watertight measures to prevent further proliferation, further cuts to the world's two largest nuclear arsenals, and solutions to the technical, political and institutional challenges posed by nuclear disarmament.

We look forward to an agreement between the US and Russia to achieve significant cuts in their nuclear arsenals by agreeing a successor to the strategic arms reduction treaty. This will be a major contribution to our shared endeavour towards a world without nuclear weapons, and will help to build trust and pave the way in due course for greater reductions. The nuclear non-proliferation treaty review conference in May 2010 will be an important opportunity to agree actions for the future on non-proliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear energy as well as on nuclear disarmament, but setting target dates for a multilateral disarmament process at this stage would not make headway given current political realities.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to publish a statement of the Government's approval to the nuclear non-proliferation review conference to be held in May 2010. [317849]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/61/70 of 6 December 2006 authorised the 2010 review conference of the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The vote was 175 (for); 0 (abstentions); 3 (against). All 175 States party to the treaty present, including the United Kingdom, voted for the resolution. The three non-States party to the treaty (India, Israel and Pakistan) voted against. A copy of the Resolution, which was published on 3 January 2007 is available at:

http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N06/498/63/PDF/N0649863.pdf?OpenElement

Palestinians

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list all official visits to Gaza made by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* embassy officials based in Tel Aviv, *(c)* consular officials based in Jerusalem and *(d)* embassy officials based in Cairo in each of the last three years. [318021]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We do not hold records of every visit made by officials to Gaza. However, our officials based in Jerusalem and, to a lesser extent, Tel Aviv, have visited Gaza on more than 20 occasions since January 2009. Our consulate general in Jerusalem also has two members of local staff permanently based in Gaza.

There have been no visits made, in the last three years, by our officials based in Cairo.

The Secretary of State for Development visited Gaza in March 2009.

Security

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with which UK private security companies representatives of the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation have met in each of the last five years; and in which countries these meetings took place. [316724]

Ian Lucas: I have been asked to reply.

UK Trade and Investment, Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) was formed on 1 April 2008, when responsibility for defence export promotion was transferred from the Ministry of Defence.

There is no accepted definition of private security or private military companies, and no clear line between the two categories. Since forming, UKTI DSO has had meetings with a number of companies who are members of either the British Association of Private Security Companies or the Private Security Company Association of Iraq, including: Armour Group, Control Risks Group, Edinburgh Risk, Janusian Security Risk Management, Aegis Defence Services Ltd, Group 4 Security Risk Management, Maritime Asset and Security Training, Olive Group, Britam Defence Ltd, Team Savant Ltd, Salamanca Risk Management, Pilgrims Group Ltd, Peters and May Global Logistics and Prometheus Medical.

These meetings have taken place in Algeria, Kuwait, Libya, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, USA and in the UK.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria are used by the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation to decide whether to assist UK private military and security companies to obtain business abroad. [316725]

Ian Lucas: I have been asked to reply.

Companies operating in the private military and security sector are entitled to the same support as other UK companies, in so far as their activities are legitimate and do not conflict with HMG's foreign policy goals. Eligibility for UKTI support is defined by the overall eligibility guidelines for UKTI trade services. Companies are not eligible for UKTI support if they are offering a product or service which it is illegal to produce or sell in the UK or in the target market, or which will breach export controls, or if the company's business record or business practices or products are likely to cause offence in the overseas market and/or embarrass the UK Government (for example, on corporate social responsibility grounds).

A copy of the Government 'Guidance on Contacts with Private Military and Security Companies' is in the Libraries of the House and in The National Archives, and is accessible using the following URL:

http://collections.europarchive.org/tna/20080205132101/
www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front%3Fpagename=OpenMarket/
Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1171453877033

Western Sahara: Asylum

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Algerian counterpart on responsibility for the treatment of Sahrawi refugees on Algeria's territory; and if he will make a statement. [317280]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: While Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and officials do discuss the Western Sahara dispute with their Algerian counterparts on a regular basis, these discussions always take place within the context of supporting the UN Secretary General and his Personal Envoy, Ambassador Christopher Ross, in their efforts to resolve the dispute.

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Algerian counterpart on allowing exit visas for Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps; and if he will make a statement. [317281]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed Sahrawi exit visas with his Algerian counterpart. My hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell), then Minister responsible for North Africa, did discuss UN-led efforts to resolve the dispute over Western Sahara with Abdelqader Mesahel, Algerian Minister responsible for Maghreb Affairs, during the annual UK-Algeria political dialogue in December 2008. The Western Sahara dispute is again on the agenda for the next round of the UK-Algeria political dialogue, which I will host on 2 March.

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Algerian Government on the case of Mr. Sghair, a Sahrawi refugee, detained by the Polisario for three months for attempting to cross into Morocco; and if he will make a statement. [317282]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has not made any representations to the Algerian authorities about the case of Mr. Sghair, who was allegedly detained by the Polisario in 2008. The FCO has also not received any prior representations about this case.

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Algerian counterpart on allowing entire families overland visits from the refugee camps in Tindouf; and if he will make a statement. [317283]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed overland visits from the refugee camps with his Algerian counterpart. My hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell), then Minister responsible for North Africa, did discuss UN-led efforts to resolve the dispute over Western Sahara with Abdelqader Mesahel, Algerian Minister responsible for Maghreb Affairs, during the annual UK-Algeria political dialogue in December 2008. The Western Sahara dispute is again on the agenda for the next round of the UK-Algeria political dialogue, which I will host on 2 March.

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* his Algerian counterpart and *(b)* the Polisario on a census to count and register the Sahrawi refugee population in the Tindouf camps; and if he will make a statement. [317284]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had discussions with either his Algerian counterpart or the Polisario about a census to record the population of the Tindouf camps. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials in Algiers and London have discussed this topic with the Polisario as part of their regular dialogue with all parties to the Western Sahara dispute.

My hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell), then Minister responsible for North Africa, did discuss UN-led efforts to resolve the dispute over Western Sahara with Abdelqader Mesahel, Algerian Minister responsible for Maghreb Affairs, during the annual UK-Algeria political dialogue in December 2008. The Western Sahara dispute is again on the agenda for the next round of the UK-Algeria political dialogue, scheduled for 2 March.

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Algerian counterpart on Algeria's obligations under the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees in relation to the Sahrawi refugee camps; and if he will make a statement. [317285]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees with his Algerian counterpart. My hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell) then Minister responsible for North Africa, did discuss UN-led efforts to resolve the dispute over Western Sahara with Abdelqader Mesahel, Algerian Minister responsible for Maghreb Affairs, during the annual UK-Algeria political dialogue in December 2008. The Western Sahara dispute is again on the agenda for the next round of the UK-Algeria political dialogue, scheduled for 2 March.

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* his Algerian counterpart and *(b)* the Polisario on the United Nations High Commission on Refugees' confidence-building measures programme for the Sahrawi refugee population in the Tindouf camps; and if he will make a statement. [317286]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had discussions with either his Algerian counterpart or the Polisario on the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) confidence-building measures programme. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials in Algiers and London have discussed confidence-building measures with the Polisario as part of their regular dialogue with all parties to the Western Sahara dispute. The most recent discussions took place in February between the Polisario and Foreign and Commonwealth officials in London.

My hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell), then Minister responsible for North Africa, did discuss UN-led efforts to resolve the dispute over Western Sahara with Abdelqader Mesahel, Algerian Minister responsible for Maghreb Affairs, during the annual UK-Algeria political dialogue in December 2008. The Western Sahara dispute is again on the agenda for the next round of the UK-Algeria political dialogue, scheduled for 2 March.

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Ambassador of Algeria on conditions imposed by the Algerian Government and the Polisario on refugee camps in Tindouf; and if he will make a statement. [317287]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the conditions in the Tindouf refugee camps with the Algerian Ambassador. My hon. Friend Bill Rammell, then Minister responsible for North Africa, did discuss UN-led efforts to resolve the dispute over Western Sahara with Abdelqader Mesahel, Algerian Minister responsible for Maghreb Affairs, during the annual UK-Algeria political dialogue in December 2008. The Western Sahara dispute is again on the agenda for the next round of the UK-Algeria political dialogue, scheduled for 2 March 2010.

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the US Ambassador on the report of the United States Committee on Refugees and Immigrants on conditions imposed by Algeria and the Polisario on refugee camps in Tindouf; and if he will make a statement. [317288]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the United States Committee on Refugees and Immigrants report with the US ambassador. Our officials in Algiers have discussed the report with the US embassy in Algiers and the head of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, also in Algiers.

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Algerian counterpart on permission for entire families to leave the Sahrawi refugee camps to travel to Mauritania; and if he will make a statement. [317289]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed families travelling between Tindouf and Mauritania with his Algerian counterpart. My hon. Friend Bill Rammell, then Minister responsible for North Africa, did discuss UN-led efforts to resolve the dispute over Western Sahara with Abdelqader Mesahel, Algerian Minister responsible for Maghreb Affairs, during the annual UK-Algeria political dialogue in December 2008. The Western Sahara dispute is again on the agenda for the next round of the UK-Algeria political dialogue, scheduled for 2 March 2010.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will provide assistance to Morocco to seek to ensure that it receives UN recognition of its sovereignty over the Western Sahara. [317588]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK Government regard the status of the disputed non-self-governing territory of Western Sahara as undetermined, pending UN efforts to find a solution that provides for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. The UK Government fully support the efforts of Christopher Ross, the UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to Western Sahara.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which projects undertaken by his Department have incurred expenditure of more than £1,000 on advertising in the last 12 months; and what the respective spend is in each such case. [317566]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* In 2009, my Department spent more than £1,000 on advertising the public appointments listed:

Public body and role	*£ (VAT inclusive)*
Arts Council England, National Members	6,700
BBC Trust, Member	16,562
British Library, Chair	15,372
Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, Chair	10,043
English Heritage, Chair	6,351

Public body and role	*£ (VAT inclusive)*
Horserace Betting Levy Board, Chair	13,314
National Museum of Science and Industry, Chair	16,432
Olympic Lottery Distributor, Member	2,000
S4C, Member	11,403
United Kingdom Anti-Doping, Chair and Members	17,980
United Kingdom Film Council, Chair	7,521

Further to this, the Government Olympic Executive spent £5,551.96 in March 2009 advertising for a speech writer and £4,830.08 in September 2009 for a communications officer.

In October 2009, £4,242.61 was spent on advertising three human resources positions and £8,906.15 on two finance positions.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost to his Department was of maintaining its media and social networking sites in the latest period for which figures are available. [315157]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the current financial year, my Department has spent £1808.95 maintaining media and social networking sites which represents software maintenance costs for the complete year. We have no staff dedicated to maintaining media and social networking sites. Any content is provided by staff as part of their normal work.

C&binet, a not-for-profit conference for the global creative industries created by DCMS, had its own website, to generate interest for the conference and to provide a high quality interactive online experience for virtual delegates not attending the conference.

Between November 2008 and October 2009, £20,000 was spent on producing blog content (191 articles in total). This included (but was not restricted to) researching and identifying themes related to the c&binet agenda and tweeting (around 15 tweets per week). Also monitoring c&binet content pick up through Google and on other blogs.

Between November 2008 and October 2009 £3,000 was spent on hosting the entire c&binet website, of which the c&binet blog was one element.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many performance reviews were undertaken in respect of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency in each of the last five years; in how many cases performance was rated as unsatisfactory or below; how many staff left as a direct result of such a rating; and what percentage of full-time equivalent staff this represented. [313833]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is given in the table.

	2008-09	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*[1]
Unsatisfactory or below	1	3	7	0	—
Total reports undertaken	435	427	459	443	—

[1] No information available.

Note:

No staff members have left as a direct result of the rating received from their performance review, in the period for which the figures are available.

Departmental Responsibilities

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many meetings Ministers and officials in his Department have had with members of the public in the last three years. [317077]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Ministers and officials hold many meetings with members of the public as part of the process of policy development.

To collate the number of meetings held by members of this Department over the past three years would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Training

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on coaching in each of the last three years; and through which bodies such coaching was delivered. [316342]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 8 February 2010]:* The amount of funding provided by my Department for coaching through UK Sport and Sport England in each of the last three financial years is listed in the table.

		£
	UK Sport	*Sport England*
2007-08	4,068,002	3,226,000
2008-09	3,585,950	6,305,000
2009-10	2,823,766	6,883,688

The UK Sport funding provides support for coaching through these organisations and schemes:

Sports Coach UK.

UK Sport's Elite coach programme.

The annual UK Sport World Class Coaching Conference.

The UK Sport Winning Coaches programme.

Coaching support for National Governing Bodies (NGBs).

The Sport England funding provides support for coaching through these organisations and schemes:

Sports Coach UK.

County Sports Partnerships (CSP) for the Community Sports Coach Scheme, which concluded in June 2009.

The Coaching System Support Network.

Recruit into Coaching, jointly delivered by Sport England and Youth Sport Trust.

Coach Education Funding for NGBs.

In addition, Sport England regional offices have made awards to support local coaching projects over the last three years. This has been funded through lottery investment as part of the Community Investment Fund.

Furthermore, Sport England will invest £480 million to support NGB plans from 2009-13, at least £100 million of which will be invested in coaching over this period.

Departmental Travel

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost was of travel by his Department's staff between England and Scotland in each of the last five years. [317074]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The cost of travel between England and Scotland in each of the last five years was as follows:

	£
2008-09	6,255
2007-08	1,246
2006-07	7,296
2005-06	6,367
2004-05	6,363
2009-10 (to date)	8,252

There are only partial data for 2007-08 due to the Department changing its travel booking service provider during that year.

Hackney

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Hackney North and Stoke Newington constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997. [318376]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department's aim is to improve the quality of life for everyone through cultural and sporting activities, to support the pursuit of excellence and to champion the tourism, creative and leisure industries.

The impact of bodies and policies of my Department on the Hackney North and Stoke Newington constituency since 1997 include:

£230,217 given from Arts Council England to organisations based in Hackney North and Stoke Newington in 2008-09 through the Grants for the Arts programme.

£222,000 of English Heritage grant offers to the Hackney North and Stoke Newington constituency in 2008-09.

Digital Switchover is due to take place in Hackney North and Stoke Newington in 2012. By the time switchover is complete at the end of 2012, 98.5 per cent. of households nationwide will be able to receive digital TV—the same number that can currently receive analogue.

£60,000 of Exchequer investment to the Hackney North and Stoke Newington constituency provided through Sport England since 2004.

Over £31 million of national lottery grants made to applications from the Hackney North and Stoke Newington constituency since 1995.

The Hackney North and Stoke Newington constituency has also benefited from other policies and spending whose impact cannot be broken down by constituency. These include:

£4 billion of Exchequer funding spent on culture.

More than £5.5 billion invested in sport by the Government and the national lottery since 1997.

Almost 750,000 free swims taken in London in the first eight months of the Free Swimming programme.

A 68 per cent. increase in national museum visits from 1998-99 to 2008-09—10 per cent. of which were by adults from lower socioeconomic groups.

£416.6 million in grants allocated by English Heritage since 1997.

48 per cent. of buildings on the original 1999 Buildings at Risk Register having their future secured.

90 per cent. of all pupils taking part in at least two hours of high quality PE or sport per week in 2008 from an estimated 25 per cent. in 2003-04—exceeding our target.

Olympic Games: Canada

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding he is providing to Team GB (Ltd) and the British Ski and Snowboard Federation to support participation in the Vancouver Winter Olympics. [317373]

Mr. Sutcliffe: UK Sport has advised that it has invested nearly £6.5 million of public funding in Winter Olympic and Paralympic sports in the run-up to Vancouver.

The British Ski and Snowboard Federation and its athletes on UK Sport's World Class Performance programme received £620,000 of Olympic funding and £205,000 of Paralympic funding. This investment has been supported by Talented Athlete Scholarship scheme (TASS) funding for Winter Sports, totaling £4 million in the last four years, of which over £700,000 has been invested in promising Skiers and Snowboarders.

The Winter Olympic team has also received support from the English Institute of Sport and UK Sport's world leading Research and Innovation and Talent Identification programmes.

As part of the contingency arrangements, UK Sport has agreed to provide approximately £21,500 of additional funds to the British Olympic Association. This amount has been ring-fenced for the support of two additional elite athletes and their immediate technical and coaching teams, to participate in the Vancouver Winter Olympics.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from his Department's buildings in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [317246]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) records and reports its environmental performance on a financial year basis. Data on energy use on the UK estate, and the corresponding carbon emissions, are reported in accordance with the 'Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate' targets and are available on the websites of the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) and the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC).

The carbon dioxide emissions from our UK estate were 4,387 tonnes in 2007-08 and 3,945 tonnes in 2008-09.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what proportion of staff in his Department are disabled; and what the average salary in his Department is of *(a)* full-time disabled staff, *(b)* full-time non-disabled staff, *(c)* part-time disabled staff and *(d)* part-time non-disabled staff. [317893]

Mr. Michael Foster: Information on the numbers, proportion and average (median) salary of Home civil service staff employed by the Department for International Development (DFID) who have declared a disability are set out in the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES) statistics published by the Office for National Statistics on 20 January 2010, which is available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/cs0110.pdf

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much bilateral aid his Department provided to Somalia in the latest year for which information is available; and in what form that aid was provided. [317523]

Mr. Thomas: Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) expenditure in developing countries are published in 'Statistics on International Development', which is available in the House Library and online at

www.dfid.gov.uk

DFID's bilateral assistance to Somalia in 2008-09 was £33.48 million. This assistance is broken down by aid type in the following table.

Type of aid	*£000*
Humanitarian assistance	18 288
Bilateral aid delivered through a multilateral organisation	9 376
Bilateral aid delivered through an NGO	5 579
Technical co-operation	227
Non-budget support financial aid	9

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Public Places

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for an offence of not obeying an instruction to stop drinking in a designated public place in each year since 1998. [314999]

Alan Johnson: The number of prosecutions, convictions and penalty notices for disorder for not obeying an instruction to stop drinking in a designated public place in each year from 2002-08 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table. Data prior to 2002 are not available as the offence of alcohol consumption in a public place came into force on 1 September 2001.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned to be published in autumn 2010.

Number of defendants issued a penalty notice of disorder, proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for not obeying an instruction to stop drinking in a designated public place, 2002-08, England and Wales[1, 2, 3, 4]

Offence description		*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Failure to obey an instruction to stop alcohol consumption in designated public place (Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, Sec 12)	Penalty notice of disorder	—	—	485	712	1,061	1,544	1,761
	Proceeded against	37	108	122	101	101	113	[5]153
	Found guilty	34	94	96	76	73	98	[5]123

[1] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The number of defendants found guilty in a particular year may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year, or the defendants was found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

[4] The offence of alcohol consumption in designated public place (section 12 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001) came into force on 1 September 2001.

[5] Excludes prosecutions and convictions data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

Anti-Semitism

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1127W, on anti-Semitism, whether figures on occurrences of anti-Semitism have been added to the annual data requirements for police community safety figures; [317145]

(2) with reference to the answer of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1154W, on anti-Semitism, whether the five data requirements of hate crime have been added to the annual police community safety figures; and what data have been collected on anti-Semitic incidents. [317103]

Alan Johnson: The Annual Data Requirement (ADR) has not yet been extended to cover crime data disaggregated by the five hate crime strands. The situation is being resolved in order that these data can be collected as part of the ADR from April 2011. This is the next occasion in the annual data cycle that this will be possible. The extension to the ADR will not enable us to disaggregate the data on racist offences in order that we can identify specific data on anti-Semitic crimes.

The ACPO National Community Tension Team (NCTT) has been collating data on anti-Semitic crimes since April 2008. The data are collated as an intelligence document and has not been published previously. We are seeking publication of these data at the earliest opportunity in order that indicative figures on anti-Semitic hate crime for the year 2009-10 can be made available.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1154W, on anti-Semitism, what meetings the cross-Government champion on reducing incitement on the internet has attended in that role; and what the outcomes were of these meetings. [317104]

Alan Johnson: In his role as cross-Government internet hate crime champion, Home Office Minister Mr. Alan Campbell has met with the Internet Watch Foundation and the Trades Union Congress. The topics for discussion were the blocking of internet service providers and tackling the Redwatch website respectively.

Since becoming the cross-Government champion, the Minister has overseen the progress of the Internet Hate Crime Action Plan. This is part of the wider Cross-Governmental Hate Crime Action Plan. Work on this plan has included the creation of an online reporting mechanism for hate crime on the internet.

Arrests

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of citizens arrests made by the public in each of the last five years. [317668]

Alan Johnson: Information on citizens arrests is not collected centrally.

Arrests: Football

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests on average were made at football matches in *(a)* each police force area and *(b)* England and Wales in each year since 2003. [317837]

Alan Johnson: Data on arrests in connection with football matches are collated and reported annually on the basis of club supported and type of offence, rather than geographical location of offence. The data for part *(a)*, therefore, are not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The Home Office annually publishes statistics for football-related arrests and football banning orders in England and Wales. These statistics for the football seasons 2003-04 to 2008-09 can be accessed on the Home Office website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/reducing-crime/football-disorder/index.html

Information in answer to part *(b)* is presented in the following table.

Average number of arrests per regulated football match in England and Wales

Football season	*Football related-arrests in England and Wales*	*Regulated football matches in England and Wales*	*Average arrests per regulated football match*
2003-04	3,826	2,433	1.573
2004-05	3,548	2,950	1.203
2005-06	3,274	2,974	1.101
2006-07	3,716	3,088	1.203
2007-08	3,812	3,132	1.217
2008-09	3,734	3,121	1.196

Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of *(a)* arson, *(b)* violence against the person, *(c)* sexual offences, *(d)* robbery and *(e)* burglary have been recorded as having taken place on the grounds of (i) educational establishments and (ii) hospitals or medical centres in each year since 1998. [317578]

Alan Johnson: Information on the location in which violent offences are committed is not collected centrally.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which constituencies the rate of *(a)* violent crime, *(b)* sexual offences and *(c)* robbery increased between 2002-03 and 2008-09. [317885]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 22 February 2010]*: Information is not available in the form requested as police recorded crime data are not specifically collected at constituency level.

Crimes of Violence: Females

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by his Department on the "Together we can end violence against women and girls" consultation *(a)* in total, *(b)* on production and distribution of the consultation document, *(c)* on opinion polling, *(d)* on mobile roadshows and *(e)* on production and distribution of the final strategy document. [316957]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Between March and May 2009 the Government undertook the largest ever cross-government consultation on violence against women and girls with the public and with frontline experts and staff.

The following funding was provided by the Government towards the violence against women and girls consultation:

(a) The total amount spent on the consultation process was approximately £425,000.

(b) Production and distribution of the consultation document came to £10,000.

(c) The MORI poll conducted cost £14,000.

(d) The amount spent on the mobile roadshows during the 12 week consultation, including staffing, was in the region of £380,000. This includes the following:

Nine regional stakeholder events attended by nearly 800 professionals;

On-line consultation questions—more than 5,000 surveys were completed and 2,930 consultation documents were downloaded.

We received approximately 1,000 e-mails to the consultation inbox.

25 focus groups facilitated by the Women's National Commission with over 300 particularly marginalised and disadvantaged women, including asylum seekers and refugees, women involved in prostitution and victims of domestic and sexual violence.

The roadshow bus which visited 40 towns across England. Approximately 20,000 leaflets were distributed and 2,400 surveys were returned.

In total 10,000 people responded to the consultation in person or online.

(e) The current production, distribution and launch costs of the final strategy document are £20,000. It is possible that due to high demand, further copies will need to be produced.

Cybercrime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many powers relating to cybercrime have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended by legislation sponsored by his Department since 1997. [317665]

Alan Johnson: The Government have amended the UK legislation relating to cybercrime, the Computer Misuse Act 1990, to ensure that the Act continues to be relevant as technology changes.

In the Police & Justice Act 2006

We broadened the definition of the Section 3 offence to clarify that all means of interference with a computer system are criminalised—in particular ensuring that adequate provision is made to criminalise all forms of denial of service (DoS) attacks.

We increased the maximum penalty for the Section 1 offence of unauthorised access to computer material to two years to better reflect the seriousness of these offences as more and more sensitive systems and information have external connections and also to ensure that the offence is extraditable.

We added the Section 3A offence, which created a new offence of making, adapting or supplying articles for use in computer misuse offences to discourage the market in the production and distribution of hacking tools.

In the Serious Crime Act 2007 Part 2 we created a new general offence of encouraging and assisting crime. This offence covers both online and offline offending and replaced the offence of enabling unauthorised access to computer material created in the Police and Justice Act.

Both of these Acts also contained a number of minor and consequential amendments to other parts of the Computer Misuse Act 1990.

Additionally, changes were made to territorial extent and the relevance of external law sections of the Computer Misuse Act, through the Criminal Justice (Terrorism & Conspiracy) Act 1998.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in 2009. [317653]

Mr. Woolas: The following table summarises the Home Office, the UK Border Agency (UKBA), Identity and Passport Service (IPS) and Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) forecast spend on advertising for the financial year 2009-10.

	£
Home Office	8,578,052
UKBA	[1]1,577,290
IPS	1,326,478
CRB	12,216

[1] UKBA spend includes an estimated £50,000 on advertising campaigns abroad.

The activity that has been scheduled may still be subject to alteration and the total for each media may change.

The figures quoted are for net media costs and do not include production costs or fees, except for the IPS spend which includes production costs for below the line advertising.

Recruitment advertising has not been included as it is not done centrally but carried out across the Department and hence spend could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to his Department of its international travel has been since May 2007. [317655]

Mr. Woolas: The expenditure incurred on overseas travel between May 2007 and January 2010 is set out in the table:

	£000
Home Office, including UKBA	9,480
Identity and Passport Service	250
Criminal Records Bureau	19
Total	9,749

The above numbers include both official and ministerial travel. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the civil service management code and the ministerial code.

Detection Rates: Greater Manchester

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the crime detection rate was in *(a)* Bolton and *(b)* Greater Manchester in each of the last five years. [316014]

Mr. Alan Campbell: From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very small limited set of circumstances. For this reason the preferred method of presenting detections data is to use sanction detections. The sanction detection rates for all offences detected in Bolton and Greater Manchester from 2004-05 onwards are given in the table.

Detection rates are a ratio of crimes detected in a period to crimes recorded in a period. They are not based on tracking whether individual crimes recorded in a period have eventually been detected.

Sanction detection rates for all offences detected in the Bolton Metropolitan borough division and the Greater Manchester police force area

		Percentage detected
	Bolton Metropolitan borough division	*Greater Manchester police force area*
2004-05	20	20
2005-06	27	24
2006-07	27	24
2007-08	26	25
2008-09	22	25

Driving Offences

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in *(a)* Milton Keynes and *(b)* England were convicted of (i) a motoring offence that resulted in a fatality and (ii) careless driving in each of the last five years. [313949]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts of offences of causing death by dangerous driving and offences of careless driving in the Thames Valley police force area and England, from 2004 to 2008 (latest available) is given in the table.

Court proceedings data are not available at town or local authority area level. Therefore data are included in the table for the Thames Valley police force area.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication in the autumn, 2010.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts in the Thames Valley police force area and England of causing death by dangerous driving[1] and various careless driving offences[2], in England from 2004-08[3]

	Year				
Area/offence	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Thames Valley					
Death by dangerous driving	12	12	19	24	16
Careless driving	673	754	798	884	2,975
England					
Death by dangerous driving	303	324	279	302	259
Careless driving	19,706	19,323	18,204	27,106	55,904

[1] Includes the offences of causing death by dangerous driving, causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving when drunk, causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving, causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving while unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured and aggravated vehicle taking where the driving of the vehicle causes an accident resulting in the death of any person.

[2] Includes the offences of driving without due care and attention or reasonable consideration for other road users, failure to comply with an order to stop a moving vehicle, use of hand held mobile phone while driving, causing or permitting the use of a mobile phone while driving a motor vehicle, Using a mobile phone while supervising the holder of a provisional driving licence to drive a motor vehicle on the road, breach of requirements as to control of vehicle, position which does not give proper control or full view of road and traffic ahead etc. and other careless driving offences and racing.

[3] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Note:

1. The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice. [Ref. IOS 47-10, PQC 313949].

Driving Offences: M4

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drivers have received a fixed penalty notice for using the bus lane on the M4 in each of the last five years. [317194]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available.

Data on fixed penalty notices for traffic offences reported to the Home Office are broken down by police force area only, and do not specify the specific location where offences took place.

Driving Under Influence

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many breathalyser tests were conducted by the police on drivers in each police force area in each year since 1998; and how many people *(a)* passed, *(b)* failed and *(c)* refused to take that test in each such area in each such year. [317949]

Alan Johnson: The figures requested are shown in the following tables. The latest published year is 2007. Figures for tests failed and refusals are combined as they are not reported separately to the Home Office.

Number of breath tests carried out, by police force area, 1998 to 2007

Police force area	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	19,695	19,247	15,805	15372	15,140	24,492	27,297	21,928	15,779	15,655
Bedfordshire	5,295	2,886	3,262	4,212	6,150	6,633	7,764	6,704	3,093	2,578
Cambridgeshire	17,800	13,600	12,800	12,700	13,000	12,300	12,300	12,500	12,500	12,000
Cheshire	23,315	20,505	15,800	13,586	12,224	11,854	20,155	22,005	35,747	32,210
Cleveland	34,181	28,601	18,818	14,054	10,995	8,716	8,056	10,826	11,308	10,140
Cumbria	9,361	7,083	6,076	5,089	4,694	5,513	8,430	13,577	13,804	16,217
Derbyshire	35,684	49,237	52,001	42,147	37,931	32,570	31,023	17,685	16,019	15,873
Devon and Cornwall	15,695	14,731	12,977	13,478	12,618	10,914	10,690	10,423	13,562	16,687
Dorset	10,056	9,203	12,298	10,424	10,431	8,464	6,938	7,917	8,706	8,038
Durham	7,350	12,668	15,306	16,322	9,535	7,558	6,080	7,734	6,945	8,160
Dyfed-Powys	9,232	9,922	7,381	7,008	7,344	5,982	6,686	6,917	7,291	9,429
Essex	28,358	24,077	27,179	18,851	16,139	15,481	25,337	34,249	28,436	25,946
Gloucestershire	9,335	8,330	8,202	9,646	9,339	8,647	7,144	9,122	10,090	8,262
Greater Manchester	31,175	21,479	27,300	23,939	23,200	20,900	19,900	18,900	18,100	18,025
Gwent	11,211	10,639	10,133	6,428	3,784	2,794	1,632	1,957	1,702	2,374
Hampshire	27,348	31,552	35,243	35,189	35,219	37,529	38,399	38,323	34,772	26,208

Number of breath tests carried out, by police force area, 1998 to 2007

Police force area	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Hertfordshire	8,147	6,959	5,963	5,460	4,289	4,011	7,289	11,900	12,693	12,030
Humberside	8,284	8,057	9,371	7,477	8,714	6,545	5,619	5,717	10,009	11,885
Kent	27,528	32,706	32,189	32,229	34,165	24,553	32,019	31,187	31,684	28,629
Lancashire	20,283	19,075	15,542	10,016	10,562	7,981	10,204	12,990	16,359	19,158
Leicestershire	20,161	21,127	18,751	14,891	14,526	12,007	15,799	14,419	9,980	6,644
Lincolnshire	25,917	20,998	12,101	13,593	9,013	12,076	11,310	11,431	10,581	14,722
London, City of	3,309	1,746	1,056	1,085	1,413	1,237	683	1,117	1,553	1,375
Merseyside	18,671	18,619	12,787	7,169	6,952	7,722	5,019	8,003	10,642	12,829
Metropolitan Police	111,448	99,832	93,807	65,084	57,206	55,993	61,535	67,461	65,025	66,919
Norfolk	12,419	11,641	9,074	9,096	5,304	4,030	4,805	10,367	7,844	6,366
North Wales	15,236	15,862	14,960	15,141	19,597	17,337	24,177	21,812	19,597	23,034
North Yorkshire	9,911	8,090	6,731	7,431	7,284	8,254	8,589	9,339	10,129	10,526
Northamptonshire	4,664	5,333	5,799	4,539	3,343	3,126	3,200	5,196	4,259	4,076
Northumbria	12,183	12,496	12,727	12,368	11,796	11,123	9,776	9,301	7,992	7,392
Nottinghamshire	8,880	8,361	8,382	7,682	5,799	7,146	8,241	7,923	7,172	7,250
South Wales	24,886	20,674	17,772	19,329	17,496	16,863	16,733	16,269	17,087	19,013
South Yorkshire	12,614	16,094	19,243	18,017	14,414	12,117	6,494	13,689	10,267	11,390
Staffordshire	15,428	10,148	7,706	4,706	5,261	5,073	13,666	14,322	12,723	12,369
Suffolk	15,636	15,134	9,159	8,588	8,868	11,566	10,569	8,854	9,059	10,435
Surrey	11,364	11,696	12,393	13,311	7,504	8,858	9,484	9,605	8,278	6,915
Sussex	17,395	17,885	20,845	21,805	17,297	17,190	15,210	17,983	18,742	16,805
Thames Valley	34,151	30,273	30,824	26,158	25,308	16,049	15,363	14,629	13,538	14,850
Warwickshire	8,661	8,604	7,057	5,828	5,068	5,848	5,496	4,820	4,458	4,877
West Mercia	19,090	12,340	8,930	9,070	8,215	6,289	7,991	8,833	11,267	10,438
West Midlands	24,099	21,324	16,221	12,203	10,510	10,960	6,579	6,900	6,229	5,611
West Yorkshire	22,894	18,807	18,278	17,219	16,739	14,157	16,921	15,367	18,011	18,724
Wiltshire	7,118	6,841	6,501	5,941	5,850	5,867	7,398	7,167	8,708	7,688
England and Wales	815,468	764,482	714,750	623,881	570,236	534,285	578,000	607,368	601,740	599,752

Note:
Figures do not always match those in each year's breath test statistics publication, due to subsequent amendments being incorporated.

Number of breath tests passed[1], by police force area, 1998 to 2007

Police force area	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	16,646	16,032	12,761	12,502	12,096	21,195	24,269	18,746	13,044	13,210
Bedfordshire	4,451	2,116	2,543	3,500	5,269	5,517	6,621	5,762	2,162	1,518
Cambridgeshire	16,527	12,458	11,707	11,591	11,714	11,041	11;045	11,187	11,037	10,595
Cheshire	21,733	18,856	13,330	11,017	9,802	9,459	17,725	20,048	33,548	30,164
Cleveland	33,262	27,754	18,020	13,209	10,215	7,626	7,382	10,094	10,484	9,517
Cumbria	8,571	6,522	5,477	4,350	4,157	4,865	7,747	12,758	13,011	15,406
Derbyshire	33,891	47,382	50,324	40,562	36,262	30,893	28,894	16,360	14,892	14,877
Devon and Cornwall	13,466	12,046	10,369	10,697	9,677	7,955	7,887	7,851	10,945	14,443
Dorset	8,545	7,926	10,914	8,852	8,853	6,756	5,255	6,109	6,823	6,210
Durham	6,137	11,731	14,290	15,237	8,429	6,423	4,869	6,661	5,890	7,191
Dyfed-Powys	8,131	8,904	6,538	6,071	6,311	4,894	5,625	5,922	6,309	8,542
Essex	25,659	21,349	24,751	16,242	13,452	12,727	22,354	31,536	25,648	23,437
Gloucestershire	8,005	7,036	6,827	8,209	7,811	7,215	5,863	7,804	8,565	6,908
Greater Manchester	24,749	16,680	18,767	16,179	15,800	13,800	13,600	13,500	12,790	12,800
Gwent	10,112	9,594	9,120	5,179	2,667	1,530	377	753	422	1,291
Hampshire	23,647	27,795	31,578	31,293	31,226	33,532	34,597	34,046	31,051	21,695
Hertfordshire	6,172	5,076	3,973	3,376	2,254	1,936	5,261	10,032	10,827	10,146
Humberside	6,756	6,848	8,125	6,363	7,535	5,003	4,912	4,979	8,448	10,833
Kent	24,448	29,234	29,190	29,078	31,178	21,570	28,841	29,012	29,447	26,876
Lancashire	18,373	17,221	13,942	7,548	9,102	5,099	7,308	10,129	13,410	16,471
Leicestershire	17,883	19,128	16,709	12,733	12,144	9,727	13,577	12,465	8,121	4,746
Lincolnshire	24,991	20,137	11,318	12,903	8,158	11,011	10,372	10,436	9,420	13,621
London, City of	2,840	1,448	814	802	1,126	998	547	933	1,303	1,166
Merseyside	16,179	16,382	10,587	5,038	4,649	5,423	2,738	5,913	8,676	10,898
Metropolitan Police	96,642	88,476	84,035	53,003	43,458	39,944	45,816	50,784	46,578	49,646
Norfolk	11,525	10,805	8,316	7,931	4,366	2,822	3,816	9,321	6,455	5,163
North Wales	13,719	14,319	13,388	13,746	18,107	15,974	22,743	20,442	18,455	21,313

Number of breath tests passed[1], by police force area, 1998 to 2007

Police force area	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North Yorkshire	8,431	6,766	5,589	6,294	6,109	7,085	7,095	7,917	8,846	9,246
Northamptonshire	3,462	4,082	4,360	3,132	2,027	1,861	1,985	4,063	2,931	2,755
Northumbria	8,950	8,974	9,294	9,013	8,787	8,543	7,592	6,669	5,355	5,001
Nottinghamshire	6,503	5,917	6,025	5,370	3,674	4,690	5,733	5,478	4,852	4,992
South Wales	21,685	17,980	15,097	16,275	14,591	13,860	13,713	13,284	14,305	16,538
South Yorkshire	10,944	14,102	17,045	16,073	12,396	10,324	4,075	9,977	7,413	8,768
Staffordshire	13,328	8,330	6,492	3,080	3,450	3,224	11,774	12,452	10,917	10,688
Suffolk	14,458	14,019	8,352	7,632	7,833	10,234	9,372	7,837	8,054	9,645
Surrey	10,096	10,102	10,826	11,792	6,386	7,917	8,417	8,562	7,408	6,214
Sussex	15,431	15,938	19,050	19,665	15,486	15,158	13,017	15,752	16,519	15,010
Thames Valley	29,194	25,363	25,508	21,464	17,618	9,746	11,398	8,756	9,717	11,362
Warwickshire	7,785	7,591	6,119	4,890	4,137	4,983	4,758	4,035	3,869	4,456
West Mercia	17,565	10,791	6,717	6,820	5,966	3,870	5,561	6,137	8,762	8,261
West Midlands	17,999	16,111	12,268	7,548	5,470	6,195	1,749	1,981	1,645	1,388
West Yorkshire	18,202	14,947	14,158	13,255	12,247	10,594	12,633	10,681	12,083	12,297
Wiltshire	6,036	5,830	5,514	4,819	4,765	4,717	6,067	5,920	7,573	6,858
England and Wales	713,129	670,098	620,127	524,333	466,760	427,936	474,980	503,084	498,010	502,162

[1] Figures derived by subtracting numbers of positive/refused from total tests conducted.

Note:

Figures do not always match those in each year's breath test statistics publication, due to subsequent amendments being incorporated.

Number of breath tests positive or refused[1], by police force area, 1998 to 2007

Police force area	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	3,049	3,215	3,044	2,870	3,044	3,297	3,028	3,182	2,735	2,445
Bedfordshire	844	770	719	712	881	1,116	1,143	942	931	1,060
Cambridgeshire	1,273	1,142	1,093	1,109	1,286	1,259	1,255	1,313	1,463	1,405
Cheshire	1,582	1,649	2,470	2,569	2,422	2,395	2,430	1,957	2,199	2,046
Cleveland	919	847	798	845	780	1,090	674	732	824	623
Cumbria	790	561	599	739	537	648	683	819	793	811
Derbyshire	1,793	1,855	1,677	1,585	1,469	1,677	2,129	1,325	1,127	996
Devon and Cornwall	2,229	2,685	2,608	2,781	2,941	2,959	2,803	2,572	2,617	2,244
Dorset	1,511	1,277	1,384	1,572	1,578	1,708	1,683	1,808	1,883	1,828
Durham	1,213	937	1,016	1,085	1,106	1,135	1,211	1,073	1,055	969
Dyfed-Powys	1,101	1,018	843	937	1,033	1,088	1,061	995	982	887
Essex	2,699	2,728	2,428	2,609	2,687	2,754	2,983	2,713	2,788	2,509
Gloucestershire	1,330	1,294	1,375	1,437	1,528	1,432	1,281	1,318	1,525	1,354
Greater Manchester	6,426	4,799	8,533	7,760	7,400	7,100	6,300	5,400	5,310	5,225
Gwent	1,099	1,045	1,013	1,249	1,117	1,264	1,255	1,204	1,280	1,083
Hampshire	3,701	3,757	3,665	3,896	3,993	3,997	3,802	4,277	3,721	4,513
Hertfordshire	1,975	1,883	1,990	2,084	2,035	2,075	2,028	1,868	1,866	1,884
Humberside	1,528	1,209	1,246	1,114	1,179	1,542	707	738	1,561	1,052
Kent	3,080	3,472	2,999	3,151	2,987	2,983	3,178	2,175	2,237	1,753
Lancashire	1,910	1,854	1,600	2,468	1,460	2,882	2,896	2,861	2,949	2,687
Leicestershire	2,278	1,999	2,042	2,158	2,382	2,280	2,222	1,954	1,859	1,898
Lincolnshire	926	861	783	690	855	1,065	938	995	1,161	1,101
London, City of	469	298	242	283	287	239	136	184	250	209
Merseyside	2,492	2,237	2,200	2,131	2,303	2,299	2,281	2,090	1,966	1,931
Metropolitan Police	14,806	11,356	9,772	12,081	13,748	16,049	15,719	16,677	18,447	17,273
Norfolk	894	836	758	1,165	938	1,208	989	1,046	1,389	1,203
North Wales	1,517	1,543	1,572	1,395	1,490	1,363	1,434	1,370	1,142	1,721
North Yorkshire	1,480	1,324	1,142	1,137	1,175	1,169	1,494	1,422	1,283	1,280
Northamptonshire	1,202	1,251	1,439	1,407	1,316	1,265	1,215	1,133	1,328	1,321
Northumbria	3,233	3,522	3,433	3,355	3,009	2,580	2,184	2,632	2,637	2,391
Nottinghamshire	2,377	2,444	2,357	2,312	2,125	2,456	2,508	2,445	2,320	2,258
South Wales	3,201	2,694	2,675	3,054	2,905	3,003	3,020	2,985	2,782	2,475
South Yorkshire	1,670	1,992	2,198	1,944	2,018	1,793	2,419	3,712	2,854	2,622
Staffordshire	2,100	1,818	1,214	1,626	1,811	1,849	1,892	1,870	1,806	1,681
Suffolk	1,178	1,115	807	956	1,035	1,332	1,197	1,017	1,005	790
Surrey	1,268	1,594	1,567	1,519	1,118	941	1,067	1,043	870	701
Sussex	1,964	1,947	1,795	2,140	1,811	1,992	2,193	2,231	2,223	1,795

Number of breath tests positive or refused[1], by police force area, 1998 to 2007

Police force area	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Thames Valley	4,957	4,910	5,316	4,694	7,690	6,303	3,965	5,873	3,821	3,488
Warwickshire	876	1,013	938	938	931	865	738	785	589	421
West Mercia	1,525	1,549	2,213	2,250	2,240	2,419	2,430	2,696	2,505	2,177
West Midlands	6,100	5,213	3,953	4,655	5,040	4,765	4,830	4,919	4,584	4,223
West Yorkshire	4,692	3,860	4,120	3,964	4,492	3,563	4,288	4,686	5,928	6,427
Wiltshire	1,082	1,011	987	1,122	1,085	1,150	1,331	1,247	1,135	830
England and Wales	102,339	94,384	94,623	99,548	103,476	106,349	103,020	104,284	103,730	97,590

[1] Separate figures for positive (failed) and refused not collected.

Note:

Figures do not always match those in each year's breath test statistics publication, due to subsequent amendments being incorporated.

Entry Clearances: Eastern Europe

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visas his Department issued in *(a)* Tirana, *(b)* Kiev and *(c)* Chisinau (i) in each of the last three years and (ii) in 2010 on the latest date for which figures are available. [317798]

Mr. Woolas: The number of visas issued at our visa sections in Chisinau, Kiev and Tirana in the calendar years 2007-09 are shown in the table. The number of applications received and refused are also shown.

The data for 2009 are for the period January to September. Visa statistics for the final quarter of 2009 are not due to be published until 27 February.

	Post	*Applications*	*Issued*	*Refused*
2007	Chisinau	2,781	2,221	553
	Kiev	36,510	33,051	3,126
	Tirana	9,735	6,951	2,695
	Total	49,026	42,223	6,374
2008	Chisinau	1,817	1,113	547
	Kiev	33,120	29,067	3,918
	Tirana	8,713	4,653	3,574
	Total	43,650	34,833	8,039
2009	Chisinau	1,157	800	393
	Kiev	23,866	20,678	2,994
	Tirana	4,234	2,986	1,371
	Total	29,257	24,464	4,758

The data are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals of visa decisions taken in *(a)* Tirana, *(b)* Kiev and *(c)* Chisinau were (i) upheld and (ii) dismissed in (A) each of the last three years and (B) on the latest date for which figures are available. [317912]

Mr. Woolas: The number of appeals against decisions taken at our visa sections in Chisinau, Kiev and Tirana that were (i) received; (ii) allowed and (iii) dismissed, in the calendar years 2007-09, are shown in the following table.

The data for 2009 are for the period January to September. Visa statistics for the final quarter of 2009 are not due to be published until 27 February.

Post	*Year*	*Received*	*Allowed*	*Dismissed*
Chisinau	2007	104	25	20
	2008	95	40	36
	2009	70	29	13
Total		346	130	98
Kiev	2007	369	95	146
	2008	409	80	126
	2009	327	88	115
Total		1,440	354	523
Tirana	2007	487	80	234
	2008	1,265	307	285
	2009	989	415	379
Total		2,757	917	1,191

Note:

The data are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals there were of visa decisions relating to applications received in *(a)* Tirana, *(b)* Kiev and *(c)* Chisinau in (i) each of the last three years and (ii) in 2010 on the latest date for which figures are available. [317914]

Mr. Woolas: The number of appeals against decisions taken at our visa sections in Chisinau, Kiev and Tirana that were received in the calendar years 2007-09, are shown in the following table. The number of appeals that were (i) allowed and (ii) dismissed in those years is also shown.

The data for 2009 are for the period January to September. Visa statistics for the final quarter of 2009 are not due to be published until 27 February.

Post	*Year*	*Received*	*Allowed*	*Dismissed*
Chisinau	2007	104	25	20
	2008	95	40	36
	2009	70	29	13
Total		346	130	98
Kiev	2007	369	95	146
	2008	409	80	126
	2009	327	88	115
Total		1,440	354	523
Tirana	2007	487	80	234

Post	*Year*	*Received*	*Allowed*	*Dismissed*
	2008	1,265	307	289
	2009	569	415	379
Total		2,737	917	1,191

Note:
The data are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications were refused in *(a)* Tirana, *(b)* Kiev and *(c)* Chisinau in (i) each of the last three years and (ii) on the latest date for which figures are available. [317915]

Mr. Woolas: The number of visa applications refused at our visa sections in Chisinau, Kiev and Tirana in the calendar years 2007-09 are shown in the table. The number of applications received and visas issued are also shown.

The data for 2009 are for the period January to September. Visa statistics for the final quarter of 2009 are not due to be published until 27 February.

	Post	*Applications*	*Issued*	*Refused*
2007	Chisinau	2,781	2,221	553
	Kiev	36,310	33,051	3,126
	Tirana	9,735	6,951	2,695
	Total	49,026	42,223	6,374
2008	Chisinau	1,817	1,113	547
	Kiev	33,120	29,067	3,918
	Tirana	8,713	4,653	3,574
	Total	43,650	34,833	8,039
2009	Chisinau	1,157	800	393
	Kiev	23,866	20,678	2,994
	Tirana	4,234	2,986	1,371
	Total	29,257	24,464	4,758

The data are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister with responsibility for entry clearance last visited *(a)* Tirana, *(b)* Kiev and *(c)* Chisinau. [317917]

Mr. Woolas: To date I have not visited the visa sections in Tirana, Kiev and Chisinau.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on average how long it took for an explanatory statement relating to a visa decision to be sent to London from *(a)* Tirana, *(b)* Kiev and *(c)* Chisinau in the latest period for which figures are available. [317918]

Mr. Woolas: During 2009, the average length of time that it took for an Entry Clearance Officer's explanatory statement to be sent to the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal from our visa sections in *(a)* Tirana, *(b)* Kiev and *(c)* Chisinau following receipt of an appeal, was as follows:

Average time to despatch Explanatory Statements—2009

	Weeks
Tirana	10
Kiev	8
Chisinau	10

Entry Clearances: Married People

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of applications for spouse settlement visas was rejected in each of the last five years; how much revenue accrued in fees in respect of reapplications; and what the percentage increase in fee charges was in each of the last five years. [317561]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* The following table shows the percentage of applications for spouse/civil partner settlement visas that were refused in each of the last five financial years:

FY	*Percentage refused*
2004-05	15
2005-06	16
2006-07	16
2007-08	19
2008-09	21

Source:
Internal management information—International Group

Revenue accrued in respect of re-submissions cannot be provided as it is not possible to extract this information from the recording system.

The following table shows the percentage increase for fee charges for spouse settlement visas in each of the last five financial years.

	Percentage fee increase	*Fee (£)*
2004-05	0	260
2005-06	0	260
2006-07	0	260
2007-08	92	500
2008-09	3	515

Source:
Published Fee Rates

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many tier 4 student applications are pending in each consulate in the Indian sub-continent as a result of the suspension of processing; how many dependants are included in such applications; whether such applications will be considered against the criteria in force at the time of their application or under the new criteria; and whether applicants enrolled in education institutions which have subsequently had their licence to sponsor suspended or revoked will be refused a visa. [317851]

Mr. Woolas: The suspension of tier 4 student visa applications in north India, Bangladesh and Nepal on 1 February means that we are not accepting any new applications in this category. No applications, including those from dependants, are therefore pending as a result of the suspension.

Applications submitted before 1 February are being processed as normal against the criteria in force at the time of their application.

The suspension will be lifted in north India from 1 March for tier 4 students intending to undertake higher education courses (foundation degree, undergraduate, postgraduate).

Applicants intending to study at educational institutions which have had their sponsor licence subsequently revoked will not meet the requirements for entry and will be refused a visa. In cases where the sponsor licence has been suspended, a decision on the visa application will be deferred until a decision is made on whether to revoke or re-instate the licence.

Firearms and Explosives: Licensing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many certificates were issued for *(a)* firearms and *(b)* explosives in each year since 1998. [317759]

Alan Johnson: Available data on firearm and shotgun certificates granted in England and Wales relating to new and renewal applications are given on Table A. These are taken from the most recent Home Office Statistical Bulletin on firearm certificates, which is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0509.pdf

Due to the transition from in-force data collection systems to the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) in 2006, firearm certificates data for 2006-07 are not available centrally. Data for 2008-09 are scheduled for publication on 25 March 2010.

Available information on explosive certificates granted by police forces in England and Wales for acquisition and keeping and acquisition only relates to the period 1998 to 2005-06 and is given in Table B. Data from 2006-07 to 2008-09 cannot be provided due to disproportionate cost. The Home Office ceased collection of explosive certificates data in 2009-10.

Table A: Firearm and shotgun certificates granted, new and renewal applications: England and Wales, 1998 to 2007-08

Number (rounded)

	Firearms		*Shotguns*	
	New applications	*Renewal applications*	*New applications*	*Renewal applications*
1998	5,900	[1]1,600	16,900	[1]6,600
1999	5,000	[1]250	15,600	[1]2,500
2000	5,900	26,200	18,200	141,300
2001	7,100	31,300	22,700	162,400
2002	8,600	28,800	25,600	152,700
2002-03	8,600	25,100	26,100	125,200
2003-04	7,700	[1]4,100	22,500	[1]13,500
2004-05	9,100	[1]8,300	23,400	[1]46,600
2005-06	8,600	29,100	25,200	141,100
2006-07[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007-08	11,600	30,200	32,400	123,800

n/a denotes figures not available

[1] The extension of the period of the certificates from three years to five years in 1995 meant that no renewals were due in 1998 and 1999. Those shown are delayed applications from 1997. Figures for 2003-04 and 2004-05 also reflect the renewal cycle change.

[2] Figures are not available due to the transition from in-force data collection systems to the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) in 2006.

Table B: Explosive certificates granted for acquisition and keeping and acquisition only, new and renewal applications: England and Wales, 1998 to 2005-06

	Acquisition and keeping		*Acquisition only*	
	New applications	*Renewal applications*	*New applications*	*Renewal applications*
1998	1,644	1,843	761	1,366
1999	713	1,340	627	1,452
2000	1,016	2,069	703	1,597
2001	699	2,292	622	1,733
2002	694	1,678	714	1,736
2002-03	647	1,571	662	1,600
2003-04[1]	552	1,997	664	1,444
2004-05	501	2,223	698	1,603
2005-06[2]	456	1,776	695	1,491

[1] Excludes data from Metropolitan, Staffordshire and South Yorkshire police forces.

[2] Excludes data from Hertfordshire police.

Football Banning Orders

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many football banning orders were *(a)* issued and *(b)* breached in each year since 2003. [317835]

Alan Johnson: The data requested are gathered and reported in accordance with the period of a football season rather than calendar year. The following table provides the number of football banning orders imposed during each football season since 2003-04 and the number of arrests for breach of an order. The data provide no distinction between low-level technical breaches or a substantive breach involving attempted attendance at a regulated football match at home or abroad.

Number of football banning orders (a) issued and (b) breached in each football season since 2003-04

Football season	*Football banning orders issued*	*Arrests for breach of football banning order*
2003-04	1,263	63
2004-05	970	60
2005-06	995	39
2006-07	644	56
2007-08	1,048	80
2008-09	956	84

Forced Marriage

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of vulnerable people being forced to marry against their will as a result of a financial agreement between family members and a foreign national; [317260]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of vulnerable people who have been forced to marry against their will as a result of a financial agreement between their family members and a foreign national seeking UK citizenship. [317261]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) provides confidential information and assistance to potential victims of forced marriage, those who have already been forced to marry and concerned professionals. The FMU also works with partners both in the UK and overseas to ensure that appropriate action is taken to prevent forced marriage from taking place.

In the last two years over 1,600 incidences of suspected forced marriage were reported in each year to the FMU. Forced marriage is, by its nature, an underground practice and therefore detailed statistics on the scale of the problem and patterns of abuse are not fully known. While the FMU is aware of some of the key motivators for forcing a person to marry and has seen cases where both these issues appear to be a factor among those with learning and physical disabilities, we do not collect specific data on the motivators as it is not always possible to clearly identify one particular cause.

However, data on the number of suspected incidences of forced marriage that involved a person with learning and or physical difficulties have been collected since August 2009. From August 2009 to the end of January 2010 at least 18 cases involving people with learning difficulties and seven cases involving people with physical difficulties were reported to the FMU.

In July last year the FMU published revised Multi-agency Practice Guidelines which provide step by step guidance for frontline professionals on how to deal with cases of forced marriage, including cases that may involve children and adults with support needs.

The FMU is also funding research to look at the prevalence of forced marriage among those with learning disabilities. One of the objectives of the research will be to examine the motivations for forcing people with learning difficulties into marriage.

Homicide: Children

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many homicides *(a)* of and *(b)* by children there have been in each of the last 30 years; and what assessment he has made of trends in the levels of such homicides. [317967]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 22 February 2010]*: Available information is from the Homicide Index as at 24 November 2009 and relates to the number of currently recorded homicides in England and Wales: *(a)* where the victim was aged under 16; and *(b)* where the principal suspect was aged under 16. Data are shown according to the year in which offences were initially recorded as homicide; this is not necessarily the year in which the offence took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

The number of homicides involving victims aged under 16 in England and Wales fluctuated quite substantially between 1979 and 2008-09, peaking at 101 offences in 1985 and dipping to 48 offences in 2005-06. However, due to the relatively small numbers, considerable year-on-year variation is to be expected. On average, there have been 75 such homicides per year over the 30-year period. The lower numbers recorded in the last few years are in keeping with the lower number of overall homicides.

Homicides where the principal suspect was aged under 16 are rare, accounting for between 1 and 4 per cent. of all currently recorded homicides each year between 1979 and 2008-09. As with homicide victims aged under 16, the number has fluctuated during this period, and slight year-on-year variations are to be expected.

Currently recorded homicides[1]: England and Wales, 1979 to 2008-09[2]

		Number of recorded crime
Year[3]	*Victim aged under 16 years*	*Principal suspect aged under 16 years*
1979	90	9
1980	74	22
1981	81	7
1982	90	13
1983	74	9
1984	82	7
1985	101	12
1986	60	8
1987	77	7
1988	96	4
1989	62	7
1990	67	10
1991	93	7
1992	68	9
1993	70	7
1994	76	10
1995	80	12
1996	80	9
1997	82	12
1997-98	71	9
1998-99	78	7
1999-2000	65	11
2000-01	95	11
2001-02	62	12
2002-03	91	9
2003-04	70	8
2004-05	60	9
2005-06	48	18
2006-07	64	12

Currently recorded homicides[1]: England and Wales, 1979 to 2008-09[2]

		Number of recorded crime
Year[2]	Victim aged under 16 years	Principal suspect aged under 16 years
2007-08	63	15
2008-09	50	10

[1] As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Data are shown according to the year in which offences were initially recorded as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the offence took place, or the year in which any court decision was made.

Homicide: Reoffenders

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people convicted of homicide had a previous conviction for homicide at the time of their sentencing in each of the last five years. [317667]

Alan Johnson: Available information is from the Homicide Index and was included in table 1.11 of Home Office Statistical Bulletin 01/10, available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0110.pdf

Data throughout the homicide chapter reflect the position as at 24 November 2009 and are shown according to the year in which offences were initially recorded as homicide; this is not necessarily the year in which the offence took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

Suspects convicted of homicide with previous homicide conviction[1]: England and Wales, 2004-05 to 2008-09

Year offence initially recorded as homicide[2]	Number
2004-05	4
2005-06	[3]8
2006-07	[3]2
2007-08	[3]1
2008-09	—

[1] As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Data are shown according to the year in which offences were initially recorded as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the offence took place, or the year in which any court decision was made.

[3] In addition, one suspect who committed suicide had previously been convicted of homicide.

Immigration: Fraud

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign-born nationals have been permitted to retain *(a)* their UK citizenship and *(b)* indefinite leave to remain subsequent to their documentation being found to be fraudulent in each year since 2005. [317731]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested as to how many were permitted to retain citizenship since 2005 could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual records only at disproportionate cost. Although no one has been deprived of British citizenship, on the basis that that status was acquired on the basis of fraud, since 2005, the UK Border Agency has recently implemented a new deprivation policy and is pursuing deprivation action in a number of cases.

As regards indefinite leave to remain, a person who obtains (or seeks to obtain) leave to remain by deception is liable to removal under section 10 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. We do not however have records for those that have been identified as using deception but have none the less been allowed to retain their indefinite leave to remain, as these could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual records only at disproportionate cost.

Offenders: Deportation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average period of time taken to deport time-served foreign prisoners held in the UK Border Agency's detention estate was in each year since 1998. [317663]

Alan Johnson: For those foreign national prisoners removed in 2007, 2008 and the first three quarters of 2009, the average length of time taken to remove once they have completed their sentence is approximately 27 weeks. This figure includes those who had been detained for a longer period while legal, country specific or documentation issues were addressed. Accurate figures relating before 2007 are not available and could only be obtained by investigating individual case-files. This would incur a disproportionate cost.

This information is from internal management information systems and should therefore be treated as provisional and subject to change.

Offensive Weapons

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* new and *(b)* amended powers relating to the possession of a concealed weapon have been created by legislation sponsored by his Department since 1997. [317608]

Alan Johnson: The law relating to the criminal use of both offensive weapons and firearms has been strengthened in a number of areas since 1997. The changes to the law do not make a distinction between concealed and non-concealed weapons.

Passports: Older People

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will introduce free passports for people aged 75 years or more. [317111]

Meg Hillier: A free passport scheme was introduced as a special concession to second world war veterans who were attending 60th anniversary commemorative events in 2004. This was extended to cover all those who may have made a contribution to the overall war effort, whether or not they had served in the armed forces. It therefore applies to those who were born on or before 2 September 1929 and so would have been aged 16 or over at the end of the war.

The present free passport scheme is not an age-based concession and there are no plans to introduce free passports for people aged 75 or over. This would be considerably more expensive and could require an increase in passport fees for other applicants.

Police Community Support Officers: Assaults on Police

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many assaults upon police community support officers have been recorded in each of the last five years. [317664]

Alan Johnson: Data for the numbers of assaults on police community support officers for 2005-06 to 2008-09 are provided in the following table.

For 2004-05 assaults data are not available separately for PCSOs. Data for the numbers of assaults on police officers, PCSOs and other operational support staff combined for 2004-05 can be seen in the HMIC Annual Report, available in the Library of the House and from:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0506/hc08/0842/0842.pdf

The increase in assaults should be considered in the light of the 144 per cent. increase in the number of police community support officers in post from 6,769 in 2005-06 to 16,507 in 2008-09.

Assaults[1] on Police Community Support Officers 2005-06 to 2008-09[2]

	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08			2008-09		
Force	Fatal injury	Serious injury	Minor or no injury	Fatal injury	Serious injury	Minor or no injury	Fatal injury	Serious injury	Minor or no injury	Fatal injury	Serious injury	Minor or no injury
Avon and Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	5
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
Cambridgeshire[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire[3, 4]	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	12	—	—	—
Cleveland[4]	—	—	—	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	1
Cumbria[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire[5]	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	9	0	0	2
Devon and Cornwall[5]	0	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	14	0	0	14
Dorset	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1
Durham	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	8
Essex	0	0	3	0	1	16	0	1	12	0	0	13
Gloucestershire	0	1	5	0	0	5	0	0	4	0	1	5
Greater Manchester	0	1	14	0	1	21	0	1	44	0	4	32
Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	11	0	0	0
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	15	0	0	17
Kent	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	1
Lancashire	0	0	4	0	0	13	0	0	10	0	1	17
Leicestershire	0	0	5	0	0	6	0	0	13	0	0	4
Lincolnshire	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	5	0	0	1
London, City of	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Merseyside	0	0	2	0	1	3	0	0	14	0	0	11
Metropolitan Police	0	2	72	0	10	70	0	23	155	0	7	136
Norfolk	0	0	1	0	0	12	0	1	11	0	0	6
Northamptonshire	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Northumbria	0	0	4	0	0	3	0	1	10	0	0	24
North Yorkshire[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	0	0	8	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	9
South Yorkshire	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	5	0	0	3
Staffordshire	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	2
Suffolk	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	1
Sussex	0	0	4	0	2	4	0	0	5	0	0	13
Thames Valley	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	6	0	0	14
Warwickshire[3]	0	0	6	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
West Mercia	0	0	6	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	5
West Midlands	0	0	8	0	0	22	0	0	32	0	0	25
West Yorkshire	0	0	39	0	1	42	0	0	45	0	0	49
Wiltshire	0	0	5	0	0	2	0	1	6	0	0	1
Dyfed-Powys[6]	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1
Gwent	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	4
North Wales	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	8

Assaults[1] on Police Community Support Officers 2005-06 to 2008-09[2]

Force	2005-06 Fatal injury	2005-06 Serious injury	2005-06 Minor or no injury	2006-07 Fatal injury	2006-07 Serious injury	2006-07 Minor or no injury	2007-08 Fatal injury	2007-08 Serious injury	2007-08 Minor or no injury	2008-09 Fatal injury	2008-09 Serious injury	2008-09 Minor or no injury
South Wales[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	8

[1] Provisional data collated on behalf of HMIC. Serious assaults are those for which the charge would be under Sections 18 and 20 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. Other assaults include those with minor or no injury. Recording practices may vary over time and between forces.

[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive.

[3] Cheshire and Warwickshire were not able to provide data from the HR recording system. Data are therefore taken from the crime system and are not comparable with that from other forces.

[4] Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cleveland, Cumbria, North Yorkshire and South Wales were not able to provide data for one or more years.

[5] Derbyshire in all years and Devon and Cornwall in 2005-06 only were not able to separately identify the degree of assault. All assaults figures for affected years are given in the minor or no injury category.

[6] Dyfed-Powys were not able to provide consistent figures for the reporting period, and data for each year are therefore not comparable.

Police: Finance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 997-1004W, on police: finance, what the equivalent data are for 2008-09. [317606]

Alan Johnson: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Budget requirement is set before the start of the year.

The Government do not distribute grant to police authorities purely on the basis of population. The police funding formula uses a range of data relating to demographic and social characteristics to reflect the relative needs of each police authority. Police grant allocations by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Welsh Assembly Government also take into account the relative tax base of each police authority. Grant allocations are stabilised by damping to limit year-on-year variations.

2008-09 data

Police authority	Budget requirement (£ million)	Resident population (million)
Avon and Somerset	259.47	1.58
Bedfordshire	96.06	0.60
Cambridgeshire	120.65	0.77
Cheshire	168.06	1.01
Cleveland	124.62	0.56
Cumbria	97.40	0.50
Derbyshire	157.22	1.00
Devon and Cornwall	268.08	1.68
Dorset	111.79	0.71
Durham	116.12	0.60
Essex	251.08	1.69
Gloucestershire	99.14	0.58
Hampshire	294.19	1.84
Hertfordshire	178.22	1.07
Humberside	169.70	0.92
Kent	266.88	1.66
Lancashire	262.07	1.47
Leicestershire	164.70	0.96
Lincolnshire	100.64	0.71
Norfolk	138.29	0.85
Northamptonshire	114.80	0.68
North Yorkshire	132.21	0.80
Nottinghamshire	184.69	1.06
Staffordshire	176.13	1.07
Suffolk	106.86	0.71
Surrey	191.50	1.09
Sussex	245.08	1.55
Thames Valley	356.10	2.17
Warwickshire	85.41	0.53
West Mercia	190.68	1.19
Wiltshire	99.28	0.65
Greater Manchester	544.93	2.57
Merseyside	317.10	1.35
Northumbria	277.82	1.39
South Yorkshire	246.61	1.29
West Midlands	543.44	2.60
West Yorkshire	410.97	2.17
Metropolitan	2,595.00	7.59
City of London	64.12	0.01
Dyfed-Powys	86.96	0.51
Gwent	114.30	0.57
North Wales	129.42	0.68
South Wales	240.30	1.23
England and Wales total	10,833.99	54.21

Sources: Budget Requirement—BR Forms. DCLG—English police authorities. WAG—Welsh police authorities. *Population—ONS* The projected populations for 2008 in the table were used in the 2008-09 police grant settlement.

Police: Schools

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions police officers have been called out to educational establishments in *(a)* each police force area and *(b)* England and Wales in each year since 1998. [317589]

Alan Johnson: The figures requested are not collected centrally.

Police: South Yorkshire

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers there were in (i) 1997, (ii) 2001, (iii) 2005 and (iv) 2009 and *(b)* police community support officers there were in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2009 in South Yorkshire. [317108]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The figures requested are shown in the following table.

Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) police officers and police community support officers (PCSOs) in post in South Yorkshire

As at 31 March each year	Officers[1]	PCSOs
1997	3,159	—
2001	3,197	—
2005	3,265	125
2009	3,017	328

[1] Number of FTE police officers less staff on career breaks and maternity leave.

Prosecutions

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there have been in respect of attempts to assist people to enter the UK illegally in each of the last five years. [317259]

Mr. Woolas: Statistics on persons proceeded against for offences under the Immigration Acts 1971 to 2006 in England and Wales by offence description are provided by the Ministry of Justice and are published annually. Information for 2004 to 2008 has been published in Table 3.4 of the Control of Immigration: Statistics, United Kingdom—2008 publication which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Prosecutions: West Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have been sought as a direct result of evidence gained using CCTV cameras in West Lancashire constituency in each of the last six years. [317796]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information my hon. Friend requests is not held centrally.

The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) and Cheshire constabulary are conducting a qualitative analysis of recorded crime data and case files in Cheshire. This is in order to determine the value of CCTV to investigations carried out in that particular police force area. This work will be used to assist in further consideration of the criteria that should be applied in other areas of England and Wales by police, local authorities and others in assessing the contribution of CCTV to crime detection, crime reduction and public confidence.

Sexual Offences

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many registered sex offenders were found not to be living at their registered address in the last five years. [317771]

Alan Johnson: These data are not collected in the format requested and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency staff there were at civil service grade *(a)* 5, *(b)* 6 and *(c)* 7 on 1 January 2010. [317151]

Mr. Woolas: The civil service grade 5 has been incorporated into the Senior Civil Service and no longer exists. The numbers of UK Border Agency staff, including temporary cover arrangements, on 1 January 2010 at *(a)* SCS are 79, *(b)* grade 6 are 187 and *(c)* grade 7 are 605. These numbers are full-time equivalents rounded to the nearest whole number.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: Surveillance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what surveillance powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has applied; and whether it has applied for powers of entry. [314947]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, for what surveillance powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has applied; and whether it has applied for powers of entry. [314947]

The Commission is seeking authority under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to undertake directed surveillance (the surveillance of individuals in a public place for the purposes of a specific investigation) and access to communications data relating to the "subscriber" of a communications provider. This could include personal information, such as bank account details, when investigating alleged criminal offences.

The Commission is not seeking powers of entry.

I hope that you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of invoices from suppliers her Department paid within 10 days of receipt in December 2009. [311265]

Jim Knight: The Department for Work and Pensions paid 97 per cent. of all valid invoices within 10 days of receipt in December 2009.

Departmental Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the quantity of food waste generated by her Department in each year for which figures are available. [310814]

Jonathan Shaw: The quantity of food waste generated by the Department in each year for which figures are available is:

Financial year	*Food waste (kgs)*
2008-09	39,755
2009-10	51,489

The figures cover waste from the preparation of food, waste from service counters and customer plate waste. There has been an increase in counter sales for 2009-10 of 6 per cent. compared with the same period in 2008-09. This may account for the food waste increase in 2009-10.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criminal offences have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by her Department since 1 May 2008. [307791]

Jim Knight: Since 1 May 2008, the following criminal offences have been created by secondary legislation sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions:

Regulation 9 of the Child Support Information Regulations 2008 exercises the power in section 14A(3A) of the Child Support Act 1991 (inserted by section 36 of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008) imposing a duty on persons liable to make payments of child support maintenance to notify a change of address. Any failure to comply with that duty is an offence under section 14A(3A) of the 1991 Act.

Regulation 25AC of the Child Support (Collection and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 designates certain regulations. Those regulations, inserted by the Child Support Collection and Enforcement (Deduction Orders) Amendment Regulations 2009, contain duties upon certain persons and a failure to comply with those duties is an offence. The duties are:

(i) notifications required to be given to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission ("the Commission") by deposit-takers on which a regular deduction order has been served (regulation 25 E (1) to (5));

(ii) compliance with a regular deduction order which has been varied and served on a deposit-taker (regulation 25 I (4));

(iii) a requirement on deposit-takers on which a lump sum deduction order has been served to provide information (regulation 25 O (1) to (5));

(iv) a duty to comply with a lump sum deduction order as varied (regulation 25 R (3));

(v) a requirement on a deposit-taker on which a deduction order is directed to pay amounts deducted under the order to the Commission (regulation 25 AA (1)).

Since 1 May 2008, no criminal offences have been abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Disability Living Allowance

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each of the smallest geographical units for which figures are available claimed the higher rate care component of disability living allowance on the ground of terminal illness in 2008-09. [310725]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is in the table.

Disability living allowance—cases recorded with a higher rate care component paid on the grounds of terminal illness by Government Office Region in the 4 quarters to May 2009

Government Office Region	*August 2008*	*November 2008*	*February 2009*	*May 2009*
North East	2,700	2,600	2,400	2,400
North West	6,700	6,600	6,100	6,400
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,700	3,500	3,700	4,000
East Midlands	3,000	2,900	2,900	3,300
West Midlands	3,900	3,400	3,500	3,400
East of England	3,400	3,200	3,200	3,100
London	4,400	3,900	3,500	3,600
South East	4,100	4,100	4,100	4,200
South West	3,100	2,500	2,500	2,800
Wales	2,500	2,200	2,400	2,300
Scotland	3,900	3,300	3,500	3,600

Disability living allowance—cases recorded with a higher rate care component paid on the grounds of terminal illness by Government Office Region in the 4 quarters to May 2009

Notes:

1. The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100 per cent. data sources. However, the 5 per cent. sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of disability living allowance claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5 per cent. sample data, or disabling condition for disability living allowance is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the 100 per cent. total for the benefit.

2. Figures have been rated to agree with Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study totals and are rounded to the nearest hundred.

3. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if th[illegible] are in hospital.

S[illegible]

DW[illegible]ion Directorate 5 per cent sample.

Electronic Government: Advertising

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the budget is for the Direct.gov television advertising campaign launched on 4 January 2010; and which celebrities were employed to feature in the campaign. [315699]

Jim Knight: Directgov has the potential to enable Government to make substantial savings in shifting from traditional to digital channels. For those savings to be realised, it is vital that the public are aware of and trust Directgov as the Government's official website. The aim of the campaign is to increase awareness so that Directgov is the first site people think of for Government information, and one which they both trust and recommend to others. Early results have shown the campaign has been a success with a record number of 614,000 visits on the first day of the campaign which was then followed by another 663,000 the next Monday. During the period of the campaign to date, year-on-year visits to the Directgov homepage have risen by 104 per cent.

The cost of production and airtime purchased to date combined is £2.05 million.

The artists featured in the Directgov advertisement are Nick Moran, Honor Blackman, Janet Street Porter, Christopher Biggins, Kelly Brook and Graham McPherson (popularly known as 'Suggs'). Helen Mirren provided the voiceover.

Negotiations on the involvement of these artists in the project were conducted by the COI and all of the above agreed to participate in the advert for a fraction of their normal commercial rate.

Electronic Government: Publicity

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department paid to each *(a)* actor, *(b)* musician and *(c)* other performer used to support the directgov advertisement, Go DirectGov. [310351]

Jim Knight: We are unable to provide information for individual actors, musicians or other performers. This information is market-sensitive and revealing it would weaken the potential for future earnings of those who appeared in the adverts.

Negotiations on the involvement of these artists in the project were conducted by the COI and all of the above agreed to participate in the advert for a fraction of their normal commercial rate.

Directgov has the potential to enable Government to make substantial savings in shifting from traditional to digital channels. For those savings to be realised, it is vital that the public are aware of and trust Directgov as the Government's official website. The aim of the advertisements is to increase awareness so that Directgov is the first site people think of for Government information, and one which they both trust and recommend to others.

Employers' Liability

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions her Department has had with the Association of British Insurers on the employers' liability insurance tracing scheme. [316772]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government want to see more done to ensure that individuals who are unable to trace insurers are given support. To this end the Government have had some very helpful discussions with a range of stakeholders, including the Association of British Insurers, on the possibility of setting up a database of employers' liability insurance.

We have today published a consultation document 'Accessing Compensation—Supporting people who need to trace Employers' Liability Insurance'. The consultation covers the best way of setting up and administering an Employers' Liability Tracing Office, including a compulsory electronic database for keeping records of future employers' liability policies that can be searched by claimants and their representatives. We are also consulting on establishing an Employers' Liability Insurance Bureau, a fund of last resort for those unable to trace an insurance policy.

We will seek to work with the Association of British Insurers and others to drive forward the establishment of the tracing office. We envisage such a system would eventually provide a complete record of all employers' liability policies issued and should be easily accessible to those who need to trace such policies.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether she has set any targets for the assessment of individuals for the employment support allowance. [312482]

Jonathan Shaw: There are no targets for the number of individuals assessed as eligible for employment and support allowance.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what administrative processes are in place to inform claimants of employment and support allowance of the outcome of their benefit claims; and what processes are in place to ensure that claimants are informed of an unsuccessful claim before existing benefit payments are *(a)* stopped and *(b)* reduced. [316097]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 3 February 2010]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what administrative processes are in place to inform claimants of Employment and Support Allowance of the outcome of their benefit claims; and what processes are in place to ensure that claimants are informed of an unsuccessful claim before existing benefit payments are (a) stopped and (b) reduced. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

If a customer claims Employment and Support Allowance and is entitled to this benefit, an award notice is issued to the customer by post. If a customer is not entitled to Employment and Support Allowance a decision notice is issued to the customer. The notice includes reasons for the disallowance and details of their right to a reconsideration of the decision and, where appropriate, to an appeal. Where a customer is receiving Employment and Support Allowance and their entitlement ends or reduces, for example on a change of circumstances, the customer is notified of the decision and any appeal rights which may apply. Customers are normally notified in advance of any reduction in benefit entitlement but this is not always possible, particularly if the change takes effect from a past date.

In most cases the process is automated with the vast majority of notifications generated by IT systems and delivered by post. However, where we know the customer has a mental health condition, arrangements are in place to visit them before any decision on their case is made.

I hope this information is helpful.

Employment Schemes: Graduates

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what forecast she has made of the take-up by graduates of the Graduate Guarantee in the next 12 months; and how many *(a)* internships and *(b)* training places she expects to be made available under the scheme in the next 12 months. [315670]

Jim Knight: In November 2009 the Prime Minister announced that the Government will guarantee access to an internship, training or help to become self-employed to all new graduates reaching six months of unemployment.

The Graduate Guarantee is based on:

The 20,000 graduate internships available through the Graduate Talent Pool (open to all graduates, from now);

The training options available through the Six Month Offer and Young Person's Guarantee;

Help to become self employed through Higher Education Funding Council for England's Economic Challenge Investment Fund and Flying Start; and

The business start-up support offered through the self employment option of the Six Month Offer.

We have not made forecasts of the take-up of each of these offers by graduates but we have guaranteed a place for every graduate who wants one.

Jobcentre Plus: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when her Department commissioned the Institute for Fiscal Studies to undertake its review of ethnic parity in Jobcentre Plus; when she expects that review to be published; and how much funding her Department has allocated to that review. [316779]

Jim Knight: *[holding answer 10 February 2010]:* The Institute for Fiscal Studies has completed the review and the report was published as "Estimating ethnic parity in Jobcentre Plus programmes: A quantitative analysis using the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS)". It was published as part of the Department's research series in 2008.

The contract with the Institute for Fiscal Studies was for £99,702.

A copy of this has been placed in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus: ICT

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what user acceptance testing has been performed on the job search portals located in Jobcentre Plus offices; what existing bugs have been identified in the Jobsearch IT system in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [316100]

Jonathan Shaw: When DWP IT systems such as job search portals are developed and implemented they are subject to a rigorous testing regime including user acceptance testing. In the last 12 months there have been eight reported defects, all of which have been rectified.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of Jobcentre Plus staff have been employed *(a)* up to one year, *(b)* between one and two years, *(c)* between two and three years, *(d)* between three and five years and *(e)* for five years or more. [314937]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 2 February 20010]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive, Darra Singh, have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many and what proportion of Jobcentre Plus staff have been employed *(a)* up to one year; *(b)* between one and two years, *(c)* between two and three years; *(d)* between three and five years; and *(e)* for five years or more. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The following table provides the details you requested. The information relates to September 2009.

Duration	*Headcount*	*Percentage*
Up to 1 year	16,739	19
Between 1 and 2 years	4,289	5
Between 2 and 3 years	2,356	3
Between 3 and 5 years	3,714	4
5 years and more	63,219	69

The high proportion of staffing in the 'up to 1 year' category reflects recruitment levels into Jobcentre Plus over recent months to deal with rising workloads as a result of the economic downturn. The majority of these people were recruited on either Fixed Term or Temporary contracts.

National Identity Fraud Unit: Manpower

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff were assigned to the National Identity Fraud Unit in each location in each of the last five years. [313256]

Helen Goodman: The available information is in the tables.

In January 2009, the National Identity Fraud Unit was reorganised from one centralised unit in Newcastle into three separate units located in London, the Isle of Wight and Glasgow. Staffing data provided from April 2006 to March 2009 have been obtained from locally held work force management information. From April 2009 the National Identity Fraud Unit's staffing activities were recorded on our Activity Based Modelling System and the data provided from April 2009 to December 2009 have been sourced from this system.

There are no available data prior to April 2006.

Staffing—National Identity Fraud Unit—Newcastle (April-October)

	2008-09	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
April	18.00	19.42	18.19
May	18.00	19.42	18.19
June	16.10	19.42	14.19
July	16.10	20.42	14.19
August	15.60	20.42	14.19
September	13.60	19.42	14.19
October	13.60	18.42	14.19

Staffing—National Identity Fraud Unit—Newcastle (November-March)

	2008-09	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
November	13.60	18.42	14.19
December	12.30	17.42	16.68
January	1.00	18.42	16.68
February	—	18.00	18.42
March	—	18.00	19.56
Yearly average	13.79	18.93	16.07

Note:
Figures are not whole numbers as they reflect part-time staff working patterns.
Source:
Locally held Workforce Management Information

Staffing—National Identity Fraud Unit—2008-09

	London	*Isle of Wight*	*Glasgow*
April	—	—	—
May	—	—	—
June	—	—	—
July	—	—	—
August	—	—	—
September	—	—	—
October	—	—	—
November	—	—	—
December	—	—	—
January	7.00	5.10	5.86
February	7.00	5.10	5.86
March	7.00	5.10	5.86
Yearly average	7.00	5.10	5.86

Note:
Figures are not whole numbers as they reflect part-time staff working patterns.
Source:
Locally held Workforce Management Information

Staffing—National Identity Fraud Unit—2009-10

	London	*Isle of Wight*	*Glasgow*
April	7.00	5.1	5.86
May	7.00	5.1	5.86
June	7.00	5.1	5.86
July	7.00	5.1	5.86
August	6.00	5.1	5.86
September	6.00	5.1	5.86
October	6.00	6.9	5.86

Staffing—National Identity Fraud Unit—2009-10

	London	*Isle of Wight*	*Glasgow*
November	6.00	6.9	7.86
December	6.00	6.9	8.86
January	—	—	—
February	—	—	—
March	—	—	—
Yearly average	6.44	5.70	6.42

Note:
Figures are not whole numbers as they reflect part-time staff working patterns.
Source:
Locally held Workforce Management Information

New Deal Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people have been referred to the flexible new deal scheme since 6 October 2009; [304398]

(2) how many people unemployed for 12 months or more since April 2009 have not been referred to a flexible new deal provider in phase one areas. [304399]

Jim Knight: The flexible new deal started on 5 October and data are only starting to feed through. The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish statistics that meet high quality standards at the earliest opportunity. We intend to publish headline Official Statistics from early 2010.

Pathways to Work

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will integrate Access to Work assessments more closely with Pathways to Work providers. [315716]

Jonathan Shaw: *[holding answer 4 February 20010]:* Access to Work is a form of 'in work' support. As such there are no plans to integrate it more closely with Pathways providers. In those situations where the right type of support cannot be easily established Access to Work will use the services of contracted external assessors.

Access to Work is available to disabled people moving into paid work, including people who have been taking part in Pathways to Work and other employment programmes, as well as people already in work. Access to Work can provide practical advice and support to the disabled person and their employer to help them overcome work-related obstacles resulting from disability, for example by funding specialist equipment, a support worker or communication support at a job interview.

The White Paper "Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment" set out a range of improvements to Access to Work. As published, we are currently discussing these proposed improvements with stakeholders, for a staged implementation starting in April 2010.

The proposed improvements include better targeting at customers further from the labour market, including people with learning disabilities and mental health conditions. The proposals also include targeting people working for smaller employers, who are currently under-represented on the programme, and to offer a 'certificate of eligibility' so that a person can indicate their eligibility for Access to Work assistance to a prospective employer.

Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector employees were contracted out into defined benefit pension schemes that offered benefits better than the minimum requirements for guaranteed minimum pensions in 1996-97. [317191]

Angela Eagle: The legislation in place between 1978 and 1997 required a contracted out defined benefit scheme to provide a guaranteed minimum pension (GMP). It was a matter for the trustees and/or sponsoring employer of each scheme to decide what if any benefits to provide in addition to the GMP, and information is not available centrally on the number of public or private sector employees in schemes which offered such benefits.

Personal Savings

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidelines her Department issues on the classification of assets as savings. [310773]

Jim Knight: Chapter 29 of the Decision Maker's Guide (DMG) gives guidance on what particular assets count as capital when assessing entitlement to income support and jobseeker's allowance. A copy of chapter 29 of the DMG has been placed in the Library. The DMG is available online at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/specialist-guides/decision-makers-guide/

Similar guidance is available for the other income-related benefits. Chapter 52 of the DMG gives guidance on employment and support allowance and chapter 84 gives guidance on state pension credit.

Remploy: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2009, *Official Report,* column 524W, on Remploy: public relations, if she will place in the Library a copy of the documents produced by Portland PR for Remploy on factory closures communications. [315700]

Jonathan Shaw: Remploy commissioned Portland PR to provide a range of services to help the company improve strategic communications.

Portland PR provided support for senior management on the overall communications strategy, and this advice informed a wide range of internal and external communication documents, materials and other communication channels across the whole company, including the factories.

It is therefore not possible to identify documents on factory closure communications produced separately by Portland PR.

Social Security Benefits: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley were in receipt of (i) housing benefit, (ii) council tax benefit, (iii) disability living allowance, (iv) incapacity benefit, (v) income support and (vi) employment and support allowance at the latest date for which information is available. [317264]

Jonathan Shaw: The most recent available information is given in the tables.

Housing benefit and council tax benefit figures are not available by parliamentary constituency.

Housing benefit/council tax benefit recipients in London borough of Bexley: October 2009

	Number
Housing benefit	12,990
Council tax benefit	16,690

Notes:
1. Figures are as at 8 October 2009.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Claimants receiving both housing benefit and council tax benefit will be counted twice in this table
4. On 1 April 2009 structural changes to the local authorities in England took effect. Changes are reflected from May 2009.

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract

Benefit recipients in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and London borough of Bexley: May 2009

Benefit	*Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency*	*London borough of Bexley*
Disability living allowance—cases in payment	3,550	8,980
Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants	2,300	6,100
Income support claimants	2,260	6,390
Employment and support allowance claimants	310	800

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure has been applied.
2. Claimants receiving more than one of these benefits will be counted under each benefit
3. Disability living allowance figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example, if they are in hospital.
4. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008. The figures relating to employment and support allowance have been thoroughly quality assured to National Statistics standard. However, it should be noted that this is a new benefit using a new data source which may not have reached steady state in terms of operational processing and retrospection. Hence the most recent data shown are provisional.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Unemployment Benefits: Cancer

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* people undergoing or recovering from radiotherapy and *(b)* in-patients (i) in total and (ii) normally resident in Scotland have been refused employment support allowance since 27 October 2008. [317753]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not available.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the amount of biomass needed to fuel proposed new wood-burning power stations; and what proportion of it he expects will be from UK sources. [317107]

Mr. Kidney: Power stations of over 50 MW in England and Wales are subject to consent by the Secretary of State under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989.

Biomass capacity of up to 849 MWe has been approved under the Section 36 consenting regime since 2007, which is expected to use up to 6.77 million tonnes of biomass per year when all plants are operational. There is also 1,289 MWe biomass capacity currently under consideration by the Secretary of State, which if consented would use up to a further 10.56 million tonnes of biomass per annum. Therefore, the combined total of consented and in planning biomass applications for England and Wales, of plants over 50MW, is 2,138 MWe potentially using up to 17.33 million tonnes of biomass per annum. This capacity includes both dedicated biomass power plants and combined biomass and energy-from-waste power plants.

Power stations of 50MW and under, in England and Wales, are considered by the local planning authority in the normal planning regime.

According to the UK RESTATS database, which has collected renewable energy data since 1989, dedicated biomass power capacity of up to 349.6 MWe has been consented by local planning authorities in England and Wales. This consented capacity, assuming a typical 25MW plant will use up to 0.2 million tonnes per annum, would use up to 2.80 million tonnes of biomass per year when all plants are operational. There is also a further 90.1 MWe dedicated biomass capacity under consideration, which is expected to use up to 0.72 million tonnes of biomass per annum. Therefore, the combined total of consented and in planning dedicated biomass applications for England and Wales, of plants 50MW and under, is 439.7 MWe using up to 3.52 million tonnes of biomass per annum.

It is not possible to separately identify the wood-burning capacity as most plants will have the flexibility to use a range of biomass fuels according to cost, availability and other considerations.

Robust biomass supply chains are only now becoming established across the UK and biomass fuels are increasingly traded as a global commodity. Therefore, we expect, in the short term at least, that these plants will use a significant volume of imported biomass, together with wood fuel sourced from managed UK forests and woodlands and from other sources such as the by-products of our timber industry, home grown perennial energy crops such as miscanthus grass and short rotation coppice (SRC) willow, and a range of biomass fuels derived from waste as defined under the renewables obligation.

Departmental Energy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the estimated *(a)* amount and *(b)* cost was of energy used in his Department in each year since it was established; what proportion of the energy used was generated from renewable sources in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [317228]

Joan Ruddock: For the last full year that information is currently available, January to December 2009, the Department has used approximately 2,209,980 Kwh of electricity and 1,184,478 Kwh of gas. The cost of this was £176,216 for the electricity and £43,043 for the gas.

The electricity was procured through the green tariff from the OGC catalyst framework contract.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on *(a)* new furnishings and *(b)* new vehicles in each year since its inception. [312541]

Joan Ruddock: Since its inception on October 3 2008 The Department for Energy and Climate Change has spent *(a)* £699,503 on new furnishing and *(b)* nothing on new vehicles.

Departmental Surveys

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of his Department's most recent staff survey; which organisation carried out the survey; and what the cost of the survey was. [311506]

Joan Ruddock: The Department will be publishing its October 2009 staff survey results on the DECC website on 1 March 2010. Following publication we will place a copy of the results in the Library.

The supplier for the Department's staff survey in October 2009 was ORC International who were procured by the Cabinet Office to deliver the first cross-Civil Service People Survey. The People Survey replaced all existing staff surveys in the Civil Service with a single questionnaire.

The cost of the 2009-10 People Survey for the Department was £18,300. By procuring a single supplier for staff surveys in 2009-10 the civil service has saved 35 per cent. on the total cost of staff surveys in 2008-09.

Departmental Travel

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was spent on travel between England and Scotland by staff of his Department in each year since its inception. [316792]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change was created in October 2008. The amount spent on travel between England and Scotland in the Financial Year 2008-09 was £157,274.

Energy Supply

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the Government plans to publish a response to the report Energy Security: a national challenge in a changing world. [317099]

Mr. Kidney: Mr. Wicks raised a number of important issues which we have studied carefully. We will publish a response shortly.

Energy: Finance

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much Government funding from all sources has been provided to *(a)* the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), *(b)* TERI Europe, *(c)* the Asian Energy Institute and *(d)* the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership in each of the last five years. [311809]

Joan Ruddock: The information is as follows.

(1) Funding for The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has not funded TERI directly over this period. In 2009 DECC funded Phase 2 of a UK-India collaborative study on the barriers to technology transfer. This work was led by the Science and Technology Policy Research Unit at Sussex university (SPRU), which received £167,000 in funding. SPRU partnered with TERI on this study.

The following has been provided to TERI by other Government Departments: *Foreign and Commonwealth Office Funding*

£441,000 from FCO for seven projects through the strategic programme fund and global opportunities fund, 2004 to 2010, as follows:

	Project	*£*
i	Incorporating micro complexities in programmes and policies for energy security in rural India	50,000
ii	Developing an Energy Security Policy for India	120,000
iii	Commercialisation of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies in India	60,000
iv	Information Sharing System to enhance coping capacities of farming communities in dealing with climate variability and climate change	55,000
v	Exploring opportunities for technology transfer to developing countries for mitigation of climate change	70,000
vi	Design of renewable energy credit system for India	76,000
vii	Scoping Study-Climate Change Induced Migration and its Security Implications in India's Neighbourhood.	10,000
	Total	441,000

DEFRA funding

In 2007 Defra funded Phase 1 of a UK-India collaborative study on the barriers to technology transfer. This work was led by the Science and Technology Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at Sussex university, which received £73,000 in funding. SPRU partnered with TERI on this study.

Defra funded the International Conference on Community Rights, Forests and Climate Change, 17-18 August, 2009, New Delhi (jointly organised by TERI and the Rights and Resources Initiative)—£46,000. In 2006 Defra also funded the Delhi Sustainable Development summit (£12,000) and work on sustainable development governance (£6,000). In 2007 Defra funded the Delhi Sustainable Development summit (£70,000).

DFID Funding

DFID India have provided £132,000 to TERI over this period, including £40,000 for Delhi Sustainable Development summit 2009 and £31,000 for Delhi Sustainable Development summit 2008. In addition TERI has received £137,000 from DFID UK as part of wider research consortia.

DFID have also announced plans to provide TERI with up to £10 million over the next five years. This funding will help to bring electricity and clean energy to millions of the world's poorest people by supporting renewable energy projects in India. As is routine, DFID is undertaking a full institutional assessment of TERI as part of their due diligence process before releasing funds.

Research Council Funding

TERI's Decentralised Energy Solutions Division is one of the participating institutes in a £4 million research initiative 'Off-grid energy for international development' run by the UK's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

(2) Funding for the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership:

	Funding (£ million)	
2009-10	2.5	DECC
2008-09	2.5	Defra
2007-08	2.5	Defra
2006-07	2.5	Defra
	1	FCO
2005-06	2.5	Defra
	1	FCO

(3) We are not aware of any Government funding for TERI Europe or the Asian Energy Institute

Energy: Prices

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many tariffs each energy provider has for its domestic customers in each region; and what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of tariff ranges. [313744]

Mr. Kidney: Table 1 as follows indicates the number of tariffs available to a new domestic gas, electricity and dual fuel customer based on a snapshot of 23 January 2010, with figures provided by Ofgem[1]. The table excludes: social tariffs; any tariffs that were closed to a new customer as at 23 January 2010; and tariffs for companies other than the main six energy suppliers. The majority of tariffs are available in each region, however there are regional price variations due in part to regional variations in network costs for both gas and electricity.

[1] The tariff data were provided by Energy Services Online Ltd [TheEnergyShop.com].

Table 1: Average number of tariffs available to a new customer in a region, across main six energy suppliers

	Electricity	*Gas*	*Dual fuel*
Direct debit	126	21	133
Standard credit	82	14	86
Prepayment meter	17	6	20

Around half of UK gas and electricity customers pay for their energy via direct debit. Table 2 indicates the number of direct debit tariffs available to new customers in each region by each of the main six domestic energy suppliers. Generally a customer choosing to pay for their energy via any other method will have fewer tariffs open to them.

Any customer looking for a tariff at any one time may be constrained by what region they are in, their meter type, their access to the gas grid, and to some extent by payment method. This will limit the number of choices open to them by varying degrees. The information provided also contains tariffs for Economy 7 and Economy 10 customers, many of whom will be limited to only these types of tariffs to switch to or sign up to.

Government recognise that there are many tariffs for consumers to choose from. We recognise that some customers may value this range of choice in the market; however, we note that this may make it difficult for others to find the best deal. In some cases, two tariffs will have the same price and payment method—but there could be small differences such as club card points, vouchers or donations to different charities turning a single price and payment plan into multiple options. We are talking to Consumer Focus who are working with switching sites to try and resolve this problem.

From this year suppliers will be obligated to provide each customer with additional information to help them understand and compare their energy tariff to other offers in the market.

Suppliers are also obligated under their supply licence to improve the conduct of their face to face sales and marketing activities by providing consumers with information that is clear and not misleading.

Additionally, Ofgem's new over-arching Standards of Conduct state that energy suppliers must not sell a customer a product or service that he or she does not fully understand, or that is inappropriate for their needs and circumstances, or offer products that are unnecessarily complex or confusing.

Ofgem will be monitoring the effectiveness of these remedies. As part of this process they will review whether these changes have proved sufficient to help consumers understand and benefit from the range of tariffs available to them, and consider what further steps may be needed. My officials are discussing the issue of number of tariffs and its impact with consumer groups.

Warm Front Scheme

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate his Department has made of the average waiting time for the installation of *(a)* heating and *(b)* insulation measures under the Warm Front scheme in (i) Mid Bedfordshire constituency, (ii) Bedfordshire, (iii) the East of England and (iv) England, Wales and Northern Ireland in each year since the scheme's inception. [317703]

Mr. Kidney: The following tables show the average waiting time (in working days) for the installation of *(a)* heating and *(b)* insulation measures under the Warm Front scheme in (i) Mid Bedfordshire constituency, (ii) Bedfordshire, (iii) the East of England in the current scheme year, and (iv) England in each year since the scheme's inception.

Average timescales quoted for years 2005-09 run from the completion of the technical survey to the completion of works. Timescales for the current scheme year run from the allocation of work to a registered installer to the completion of work following a change in recording processes under the revised contract for the scheme's delivery.

Heating timelines	*Mid Bedfordshire*	*Bedfordshire*	*East of England*	*England*
2005-06	n/a	n/a	n/a	68
2006-07	n/a	n/a	n/a	74
2007-08	n/a	n/a	n/a	64
2008-09	n/a	n/a	n/a	57
2009-10[1]	43	50	45	45

n/a = not available.

[1] Data run to 31 January 2010.

Insulation timelines	*Mid Bedfordshire*	*Bedfordshire*	*East of England*	*England*
2005-06	n/a	n/a	n/a	31
2006-07	n/a	n/a	n/a	29
2007-08	n/a	n/a	n/a	33
2008-09	n/a	n/a	n/a	23
2009-10[1]	11	14	17	17

n/a = not available.

[1] Data run to 31 January 2010.

Neither the Department nor eaga, the scheme manager, has previously grouped data by constituency or county: as such, the regional data for 2005 to 2009 are not available. However, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell) on 1 December 2009, *Official Report* column 717W, which presents the average timelines for heating and insulation work by each local authority area between May 2008 and November 2009.

Fuel poverty is a devolved issue and the Warm Front scheme operates in England alone: as such, it is not possible to provide data for Wales and Northern Ireland.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes were constructed in 2008-09. [315663]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on additional new build affordable homes can be found in Table 1009 on the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1406088.xls

Not all affordable housing is provided by new build completions, some can be provided through acquisitions.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 866-8W, on affordable housing, what expenditure his Department has incurred on *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy, *(c)* Open Market HomeBuy, *(d)* First Time Buyer's Initiative, *(e)* Social HomeBuy and *(f)* Rent to HomeBuy in 2009-10. [317535]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 867-68W.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been bought under the Rent to Homebuy scheme in each *(a)* local authority and *(b)* region since the inception of that scheme; and what the monetary value of such sales was in each area on the latest date for which figures are available. [318014]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 22 February 2010 to PQ 316761.

Affordable Housing: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on increasing the standard of social housing in Salford since 1997. [317391]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table shows Salford city council and their arms length management organisation, Salix Homes, capital investment in council housing in the city.

	Expenditure £000
1998	13,929
1999	16,115
2000	14,335
2001	21,410
2002	20,949
2003	24,839
2004	18,135
2005	21,697
2006	19,964
2007	18,656
2008	21,102
2009	13,910

Source:

Annual returns to Communities and Local Government

The TSA cannot provide the data requested for housing associations in the City.

Affordable Housing: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) by what mechanisms the Homes and Communities Agency measures its progress in meeting its statutory duty to improve the quality of housing; [316940]

(2) what recent steps the Homes and Communities Agency has taken in respect of its statutory duty to *(a)* improve the quality of housing and *(b)* contribute to the achievement of good design. [316941]

John Healey: Two of the HCA's four statutory objects are to (i) improve the supply and quality of housing in England and (ii) contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and good design in England. The HCA inherited standards for certain of its programmes, setting minimum criteria which must be achieved before funding is provided. Regular checks and audits are undertaken to ensure these requirements are delivered. The HCA have established advisory Boards to assist with these issues, and plan to issue a design and quality strategy later this year. Details of these panels, including membership, can be found on the HCA's website:

www.homesandcommunities.co.uk

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria the Homes and Communities Agency used to assess the design quality and viability of housing schemes for the purposes of awarding funding under Round 1 of the Kickstart programme; and what account was taken of the assessments made by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment in its capacity as adviser on that programme. [316942]

John Healey: The criteria used by the HCA to assess the design quality and viability of housing schemes under Round 1 of the Kickstart programme can be found in the Round 1 'Kickstart Housing Delivery: Unlocking Stalled Sites' guidance located on HCA's website. Design quality was part of the overall value for money assessment of Kickstart bids, alongside deliverability and the capacity to create jobs. CABE assessments were used to highlight schemes where more attention was needed and were the basis for further assessment by HCA regional teams. The HCA regional teams were able to augment the CABE assessment with additional relevant local information to inform final decisions on award of funding.

Audit Commission: Procurement

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1261W, on the Audit Commission: procurement, how much the Audit Commission spent in respect of each organisation that supplied goods or services to it in 2008-09. [317572]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct. The table referred to has been placed in the Library of the House.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 23 February 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The payments made to organisations that supplied goods or services to the Audit Commission in 2008-09 are outlined in the attached table.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Business Improvement Districts

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in how many business improvement districts in England more than one retail area is working in partnership; and if he will make a statement. [317722]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not hold this information.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he has issued to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* businesses on establishing a business improvement district which includes more than one retail centre; and if he will make a statement. [317723]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government has not issued guidance on establishing a business improvement district that includes more than one retail centre.

Community Development: Finance

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has allocated to the *(a)* Supporting People programme, *(b)* New Communities fund, *(c)* New Deal for Communities fund, *(d)* Safer and Stronger Communities fund, *(e)* Local Enterprise Growth Initiative and *(f)* Working Neighbourhoods fund in each financial year from 2009-10 to 2014-15. [317361]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Supporting People

The funding allocations to the Supporting People programme for:

2009-10: £1,665 million

2010-11: £1,636 million

No allocations have been yet agreed for future years and beyond 2011.

(b) New Communities Fund

Ministers decided in 2009 to reallocate resources from the New Communities Fund to other ministerial priorities. This was to reflect ministerial reprioritisation of funding across the Department to ensure available funding supports the highest priorities in the current fiscal circumstances.

(c) New Deal for Communities fund

In April 2009 the Department announced NDC partnership allocations of £186.2 million in 2009-10 and an indicative allocation of £70.4million in 2010-11, the final year of the programme.

(d) Safer and Stronger Communities

For the Safer and Stronger Communities fund, £30.909 million was allocated in 2009-10 and there is an indicative allocation of £4.893 million in 2010-11. No allocations have been agreed for years beyond 2010-11.

(e) Local Enterprise Growth Initiative

£98.885 million has been allocated for the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative for 2009-10 (£23.912 million Capital and £74.972 million Revenue) and there is an indicative allocation of £93.950 million for 2010-11 (£18.648 million Capital and £75.301 million Revenue).

No decisions have yet been made on arrangements for LEGI beyond the current three year spending period.

(f) Working Neighbourhoods Fund

£547.8 million has been allocated for the Working Neighbourhoods Fund for 2009-10, this includes the £40m top-up announced in November 2009, and there is an indicative allocation of £507.9 million for 2010-11.

No decisions have yet been made on arrangements for WNF beyond the current three year spending period.

Consolidated Communications

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 377W, on the Audit Commission: public opinion, what the purpose was of the public affairs consultancy work undertaken by Consolidated Communications for his Department;

and what *(a)* documents and *(b)* other deliverables the Audit Commission received from Consolidated Communications under that contract. [317524]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 23 February 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission contracted Consolidated Communications, a communications company, during a period of substantial reorganisation of its communications directorate. Consolidated offered advice and support, replacing functions in the external communications team that, temporarily, were not available in house.

The work and deliverables carried out under the contract were:

the monitoring of Parliament;

the monitoring of policy announcements; and

briefings on legislative issues.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Council Housing: Newcastle Upon Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received from Your Homes Newcastle on the funding for asbestos removal under the decent homes programme; and if he will place in the Library a copy of those representations. [318004]

Mr. Ian Austin: Communities and Local Government Department has received no recent representations from Your Homes Newcastle on the funding for asbestos removal under the Decent Homes programme. However, their parent local authority, Newcastle City Council, as part of their ALMO bidding application in 2003, made a contingency allowance in their Building Cost Model for asbestos removal.

Council Tax

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 214W, on council tax, whether local authorities may levy a surcharge on council tax bills paid by credit card. [317571]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 214W.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much gross council tax revenue in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms at 2010 prices was raised in each region in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [317868]

Barbara Follett: The amount of gross council tax revenue in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms at 2008-09 prices raised in each region in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) 2008-09, the most recent year for which figures are available, are shown in the following table.

£ million

	1997-98 cash	*1997-98 at 2008-09 prices*	*2008-09 cash*
North East	449	614	902
North West	1,310	1,794	2,570
Yorkshire and the Humber	866	1,186	1,835
East Midlands	773	1,058	1,738
West Midlands	940	1,288	1,996
East of England	1,051	1,439	2,613
London	1,386	1,898	3,171
South East	1,716	2,350	4,098
South West	995	1,363	2,395
Total England	9,488	12,990	21,319

The data are taken from the Quarterly Return of Council Tax and non-domestic rates returns completed annually by all billing authorities in England and the real terms data are given at 2008-09 prices using the Retail Price Index.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much and what proportion of gross revenue to local authorities from council tax was funded by council tax benefit in 2008-09. [317800]

Barbara Follett: In 2008-09 the gross revenue to local authorities from council tax was £24.9 billion with £3.5 billion of this figure being from council tax benefit paid to the collection fund. Therefore 14 per cent. of the gross revenue to local authorities from council tax was funded by council tax benefit.

Council Tax: Discounts

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 378W, on council tax, what types of council tax discount are made available by each individual local authority; and what the monetary value was of such discounts in the latest period for which figures are available. [317937]

Barbara Follett: Details of the types of local council tax discounts awarded as at October 5 2009, and the authority awarding the discount, are shown as follows.

Pensioners: Bury, Hillingdon, Kirklees, Lincoln, Southampton, Wirral

Properties affected by flooding and other external environmental factors: Doncaster, East Lindsey, Forest of Dean, Gloucester, Herefordshire UA, Hillingdon, Malvern Hills, North Lincolnshire, Northumberland, Rotherham, Wakefield, Wychavon

Those to whom, because they have been affected by the change in regulations since a discount was originally awarded, a discount has been awarded so as to not disadvantage them: Adur, Exeter, Horsham, North Norfolk, Waveney

The following types of local council tax discounts were also awarded as at 5 October 2009.

A hard to sell property

A new unfinished property

Difficult to let properties

Hardship

Occupied and unoccupied furnished properties that do not have the benefit of mains services including beach chalets

Properties that are no one person's sole or main residence where access is restricted taxpayers who can comply with the council's Mooring Policy.

Various classes of empty properties.

These discounts were awarded by the following authorities. It is not possible to identify which authority awarded which discount as this may allow identification of individual properties or persons.

Bradford

Brighton and Hove

Cambridge

Canterbury

Copeland

Daventry

East Riding of Yorkshire UA

South Ham

South Lakeland

West Somerset

Details of the monetary value of these discounts are not collected centrally.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have used their powers to reduce the council tax discount on *(a)* empty and *(b)* second homes; what revised discount rate was set in each case; and what estimate has been made of the total additional council revenue raised as a result of such revisions in each year since 1993. [318062]

Barbara Follett: Since 1 April 2004, local billing authorities have been given the discretion to reduce the council tax discount offered on long-term empty homes and second homes.

I have placed in the Library of the House tables which show which authorities have, since 2004-05, used their power to reduce discounts for council tax on empty and second homes in their area as well as the revised rate applied.

The estimated total additional council revenue raised as a result of the reduction to discounts for long-term empty and second homes for each year since 2006-07 is shown in the following table:

£ million

	Long-term empty homes	*Second homes*
2006-07	79	98
2007-08	88	101
2008-09	104	113
2009-10	108	124

Estimates have not been provided for the years prior to 2006-07 due to the disproportionate cost in producing them.

Council Tax: Statistics

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 368W, on council tax: statistics, what decision was taken on the designation of council tax statistics. [317815]

Barbara Follett: Officials are currently working with the United Kingdom Statistics Authority (UKSA) on the assessment of council tax levels set by local authorities in England. When the assessment has been completed, details will be available on the UKSA website at the following link:

http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/index.html

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) Executive agency for which his Department is responsible in 2009. [318069]

Barbara Follett: The Department's expenditure on communications, including advertising, is set out in its annual reports, which include details of the initiatives communicated. Departmental annual reports are available on the Department's website at:

www.communities.gov.uk

Additional detail on the most recent year (2008-09) is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/1298507.pdf

Information on advertising by the Department's non-departmental public bodies and Executive agencies is not held centrally and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Computers

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much on average his Department paid for a typical *(a)* laptop and *(b)* desktop computer (i) including and (ii) excluding value added tax in the latest period for which figures are available. [317870]

Barbara Follett: The average price paid by the Department for Communities and Local Government in the financial year 2009-10 for a desktop computer is approximately £787 excluding VAT and £1,862 excluding VAT for laptops. The costs of individual desktop and laptop computers can vary considerably depending on the model required and whether it is purchased for network or standalone use. If it is to be networked the cost will include the price of ongoing support from our IT supplier and of providing security features to meet the relevant cross government requirements set by the Cabinet Office and Communications-Electronics Security Group (CESG).

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the executive agencies for which he is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in (i) his Department and (ii) the executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [317908]

Barbara Follett: The information is as follows:

(a) The number and the average salaries of the disabled and non-disabled staff employed by the Department for Communities and Local Government who have made their disability status known, is shown in the following table:

	Average salaries (£)	*Full-time equivalent Staff number*
Disabled—Full-time	35,411	90
Disabled—Part-time	41,023	5.7
Non-disabled—Full-time	40,722	1,296
Non-disabled—Part-time	40,569	133.4

(b) Information on the average salaries of disabled and non-disabled staff in the Department's agencies is not held centrally.

Departmental Energy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated *(a)* amount and *(b)* cost was of energy used in his Department and its agencies in each year since 1997; what proportion of the energy used was generated from renewable sources in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [317226]

Barbara Follett: The amount and cost of energy used by Communities and Local Government and its executive agencies in each year since 2004-05 is detailed in the following table. To provide data prior to 2004-05 would represent disproportionate costs to the Department.

CLG central

	Electricity (kWh)	*Renewable (%)*	*Cost (£)*	*Gas (kWh)*	*Cost (£)*
2004-05	10,744,962	99	392,578	9,289,748	161,962
2005-06	12,642,144	99	740,661	9,339,992	212,924
2006-07	13,018,289	92	1,185,468	8,769,886	280,322
2007-08	10,850,743	91	743,455	7,033,682	172,769
2008-09	7,350,508	98	[1]—	4,763,012	[1]—

Executive agencies

	Electricity (kWh)	*Renewable (%)*	*Cost (£)*	*Gas (kWh)*	*Cost (£)*
2004-05	15,311,717	46	621,065	20,434,155	270,500
2005-06	12,700,819	52	743,699	20,740,911	363,795
2006-07	12,889,192	51	979,996	21,168,731	427,325
2007-08	11,751,470	53	962,422	18,084,384	308,092
2008-09	12,161,536	51	1,046,516	17,682,433	419,928

[1] Full energy costs for CLG Central are not known for 2008-09 due to estate rationalisation and subsequent incomplete pro-rated costs from our landlord.

Mandatory cross-Government targets require Departments and their agencies to reduce carbon emissions from offices by 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11 against 1999-2000 levels and to source at least 10 per cent. of electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008. Performance is reported annually as part of the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) process.

The latest assessment of Government's performance against these targets was published by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) on the 18 December 2009, and is available on the OGC website

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/sustainability_programme_ progress.asp

Information on reporting years prior to 2008/09 was collated and published by the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) and can be found on the SDC website

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies are in transition prior to being managed out; how long on average the transition window between notification and exit has been in (i) his Department and its predecessors and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the salary costs of staff in transition in each such year; and what proportion of employees in transition were classed as being so for more than six months in each year. [313247]

Barbara Follett: The phrases 'in transition' and 'managed out' are not used in the civil service. However, we have taken the former to mean staff officially declared to be surplus, and the latter to mean surplus staff leaving the organisation, either through redeployment or compulsory redundancy.

In Communities and Local Government surplus staff are not necessarily managed out. The Department's redeployment pool, known as the Career Transition Centre, includes staff returning from loans, secondments, and career breaks, as well as those currently without permanent posts. Most of these staff are redeployed within the civil service.

The following table shows the length of the transition window, with associated salary costs, and the proportion of staff who were surplus for more than six months. The cost of surplus staff has only been centrally accounted for in Communities and Local Government since April 2008 so no data on this are available prior to this date. Similarly, the Department did not track staff redeployment before April 2008.

	Number of surplus staff exiting the organisation	*Salary cost for transition period (£)*	*Average length of transition period in months*	*Percentage in transition for more than six months*
Central Communities and Local Government				
2010	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	63
2009	21	483,776.47	6.65	26
2008	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	6
2007	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

	Number of surplus staff exiting the organisation	*Salary cost for transition period (£)*	*Average length of transition period in months*	*Percentage in transition for more than six months*
2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Government Offices				
2010	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	67
2009	15	124,878.00	5.33	27
2008	11	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007	27	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006	31	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	[1]—	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	88	n/a	n/a	n/a
QEII Centre				
2010	0	0	0	0
2009	0	0	0	0
2008	0	0	0	0
2007	0	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0	0
2005	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0
Planning Inspectorate				
2010	0	0	0	0
2009	0	0	0	0
2008	0	0	0	0
2007	0	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0	0
2005	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0
Fire Service college				
2010	0	0	0	0
2009	6	96,514.00	6.00	3
2008	6	93,284.00	7.00	2
2007	0	0	0	0
2006	16	249,720.00	6.00	6
2005	0	0	0	0
Total	28	439,518.00	3.17	11
Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

[1] This shows where less than five employees exited in a particular year. Publication of further details could breach our rules of confidentiality and are thus, not provided.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the proportion of staff of *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies managed out in the last five years who remain working in the public sector. [313841]

Barbara Follett: No data are collected on the future employment of staff who leave the Department or its agencies.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on ministerial hospitality in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08 expressed in current prices. [317345]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Member for Tooting (Mr. Khan) on 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 787W.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many receptions he has hosted for representatives of print and broadcast media since 3 October 2008. [317346]

Barbara Follett: Since his appointment as Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in June 2009, my right hon. Friend has hosted two receptions for representatives of print and broadcast media.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many receptions he has hosted for representatives of print and broadcast media since October 2008; how much each reception cost; and how many attended each. [317999]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government published an annual list of receptions hosted by Ministers for 2008-09 in a written ministerial statement on 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 118WS.

The next return will be published in July 2010.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department and its agencies spent on external recruitment consultants in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [315285]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not hold this information centrally and could provide it only at disproportionate cost.

The Planning Inspectorate does not hold this information centrally and could provide it only at disproportionate cost.

Fire Service college has made no payments to external recruitment consultants in FY 2008-09.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre has made no payments to external recruitment consultants in FY 2008-09.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many vacancies in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were filled using external recruitment consultants in the last 12 months. [315290]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not hold this information centrally and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Planning Inspectorate filled two vacancies in the last 12 months.

Fire Service college has not filled any vacancies in the last 12 months.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre has not filled any vacancies in the last 12 months.

Departmental Surveys

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1117W, on FlexSpace, if he will place in the Library a copy of the staff survey carried out in January 2009. [317602]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government is making arrangements for a copy of the SpaceFlex staff survey, along with the results of the project's post occupation evaluation survey, to be placed in the Library once the project has been completed and evaluated.

The project is due to complete in July 2010. The post occupancy evaluation will then be undertaken and the Department anticipates that the results will be available in October 2010.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much area-based grant was allocated to *(a)* waste disposal and *(b)* waste collection authorities in 2008-09; and how much such grant he plans to allocate to each type of authority in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [317969]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In two tier areas, waste collection is generally carried out by district councils and waste disposal by county councils. In single tier areas, such as unitary authorities and metropolitan borough councils, collection and disposal is generally combined, although in some Metropolitan areas waste disposal is carried out on behalf of local authorities by statutory joint waste disposal authorities.

The allocation of area based grant (ABG) for each district council, county council, unitary authority and metropolitan borough council for 2008-09 to 2010-11 is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/areabasedgrant/

ABG is unhypothecated and decisions on the use of the grant are for individual local authorities.

Employment Tribunals Service

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many employment disputes involving staff of his Department have been taken to an employment tribunal since 2003; what the outcome was in each case which has been concluded; and what the grounds for dispute were in each case. [317865]

Barbara Follett: Less than five employment disputes involving Communities and Local Government staff have been taken to an employment tribunal since the Department was established in 2006. Consequently, publication of details relating to these cases could breach our rules of confidentiality and so cannot be provided.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1299W, on empty dwelling management orders, how many empty dwelling management orders have been issued by each local authority since the date of that answer; how many resulted in the re-occupation of empty dwellings; and if he will make a statement. [314844]

Mr. Ian Austin: 27 interim empty dwelling management orders had been issued by 19 October 2009. Since that date the Department is aware of one further interim empty dwelling management order issued by South Gloucestershire council that has been authorised by a residential property tribunal. This has not yet resulted in the reoccupation of the property.

Empty dwelling management orders are a last resort, where all other measures of investigation and negotiation have been exhausted and the local authority has been unable to persuade the owner to bring the property back into use. In many cases the threat of an empty dwelling management order is sufficient to make owners take action.

Energy Performance Certificates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties there were on the Domestic Energy Performance Certificate Register in *(a)* November 2009, *(b)* December 2009 and *(c)* January 2010. [317540]

Mr. Ian Austin: The number of domestic Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) on the Domestic EPC Register was 3,904,360 on 30 November 2009, 4,008,217 on 31 December 2009 and 4,144,284 on 31 January 2010.

Gardens: Planning Permission

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 660, on planning, which part of the 1992 planning guidance defined gardens as brownfield land for planning purposes. [317814]

Mr. Ian Austin: The classification of land introduced in 1985 in the first report on Land Use Change in England included a "Residential" category that covered "Houses, flats and adjoining garages, gardens, estate roads and pathways, sheltered accommodation where residences have separate front entrances."

This classification thus established the principle that gardens should not be separated from the curtilage when establishing for statistical purposes whether residential land has been redeveloped for other purposes.

The 1992 Planning Policy Guidance note (Housing) drew on the 1985 based classification. It states that

> "recent information on land use changes in England shows that nearly half of the land developed for housing was either previously developed or was vacant land in built up areas".

What counted as "previously developed" in this context was plainly based on the classifications which had been in use since 1985.

Government Offices for the Regions: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* running cost and *(b)* aggregate programme expenditure was of each Government Office of the Regions in 2008-09. [317985]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The running (admin) cost and aggregate programme expenditure for each of the regional Government Offices for 2008-09 was as follows:

£

Regional Government Office	*Running (admin) costs expenditure 2008-09*	*Aggregate programme expenditure 2008-09*
GO North East	10,178,900	63,201,887
GO North West	12,191,200	587,300,000
GO Yorkshire and Humber	8,922,600	1,441,209,521
GO West Midlands	10,837,400	100,156,000
GO East Midlands	8,932,000	51,181,868
GO East	9,109,600	65,257,342
GO South East	10,561,400	209,777,489
GO South West	10,467,500	545,083,981
GO London	11,811,500	100,367,713

The aggregate programme expenditure figure is made up of the programme budgets delegated by 12 Sponsor Departments directly to each regional Government Office and includes European expenditure.

The existing Sponsor Departments are CLG, BIS, DfT, DCFS, DWP, DEFRA, Home Office, MoJ, DECC, DCMS, Cabinet Office and DoH.

Green Belt

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to protect the green belt in *(a)* England, *(b)* East of England, *(c)* Bedfordshire and *(d)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency. [317530]

Mr. Ian Austin: We are committed to the protection of green belt throughout England. Only in exceptional circumstances may its boundaries be amended, where the tests in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2, 'Green Belts', are met. Disregarding the reclassification of 47,300 hectares as National Park in 2005, green belt nationally has grown by around 34,000 hectares since 1997.

In the East of England Plan 2008, Policy SS7 states that the broad extent of green belts in the region is appropriate and should be maintained. However, it identifies the need for strategic review of green belt boundaries at Stevenage, Hemel Hempstead, Harlow and Welwyn/Hatfield. These are designated key centres for development and change where significant growth allocations have been made.

In Bedfordshire the Milton Keynes/South Midlands Sub Regional Strategy 2005 required a strategic green belt review at Luton/Dunstable/Houghton Regis and at Leighton Linslade. This was required to provide room for growth around the conurbation to 2031, and is being undertaken as part of the core strategy for Luton/southern central Bedfordshire which is currently in preparation. It is not yet clear whether or not the hon. Member's constituency is likely to be directly affected. The area of individual green belts is for local planning authorities to decide.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects on the protection of the green belt of the introduction of National Policy Statements. [317858]

John Healey: The Government have no proposals to change policy for the protection of green belts. National Policy Statements incorporate green belt policy.

Housing Associations: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the level of borrowing by housing associations to finance the building of new homes. [316819]

Mr. Ian Austin: The housing association sector has successfully raised £58 billion of private finance, enabling it to develop new affordable housing, invest in its existing stock and deliver quality services to its tenants. This includes £13.4 billion of committed loan facilities that are available to meet the sector's forecast funding requirements. For 2009-14 associations are currently forecasting that they will undertake new development with a net cost (after grant and sales receipts) of £9.44 billion which will be funded by private finance.

Housing: Construction

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes for social rent were built *(a)* by local authorities, *(b)* by housing associations and *(c)* privately in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10 to date. [316817]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table shows new build homes for social rent completed in 2008-09 by type of provider.

New-build homes for social rent by sector: England 2008-09

	Number
Total social rented provision	27,790
Of which:	
Local authorities	570
Registered social landlords	22,670
Private sector	4,550

Sources:
Homes and Communities Agency, P2 returns to CLG, Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix.

Data are reported by the tenure of the dwelling rather than by the organisation carrying out the construction as most dwellings are built by private builders even if the final tenure is in the social stock.

Not all housing for social rent is provided by new build completions, as some supply can come from acquisitions. In 2008-09, a total of 31,090 homes for social rent were supplied.

Complete estimates for 2009-10 are not available. House building statistics for the first six months of 2009-10 show that 160 new build units for social rent were completed by local authorities in this period. The Homes and Communities Agency have published official statistics on the number of affordable homes delivered under the National Affordable Housing programme (NAHP) for April to September 2009. These show that a total of 10,671 units were completed for social rent in this period under the NAHP, of which 9,809 were new build completions. However, these figures do not provide a complete picture of new build homes for social rent delivered by RSLs. Estimates for the private sector are not available for 2009-10.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of all new *(a)* dwellings, *(b)* affordable homes and *(c)* homes for social rent in England were flats with (i) one bedroom, (ii) two bedrooms, (iii) three or more bedrooms in each year since 1997. [317011]

Mr. Ian Austin: The information requested on all new dwellings can be found on the Department's website in Live Table 254:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housebuilding/livetables/

For information on affordable homes and homes for social rent I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) on 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 243W.

Not all affordable housing is provided through new build completions, supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. In 2008-09, a total of 55,770 additional affordable homes, of which 31,090 were for social rent homes, were provided.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of all new *(a)* dwellings, *(b)* affordable homes and *(c)* homes for social rent in England were (i) flats and (ii) houses in each year since 1997. [317012]

Mr. Ian Austin: The information requested on all new dwellings can be found on the Department's website in Live Table 254:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housebuilding/livetables/

For information on affordable homes and homes for social rent I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) on 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 243W.

Housing: Prices

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the average cost, including value added tax, to a certificate holder of a domestic energy performance certificate for an average family home in London. [317880]

Mr. Ian Austin: The cost of Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) is determined by the market. No information is therefore held centrally upon which to base an estimate of the average cost to building owners or landlords of having an EPC prepared on any property that they may own.

Infrastructure Planning Commission: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his latest estimate is of the *(a)* capital and *(b)* running costs of the Infrastructure Planning Commission in (a) 2009-10 and (b) 2010-11. [317861]

John Healey: The Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) was established on 1 October 2009 providing advice and guidance to promoters.

The estimated costs for the IPC for six months from October to March of 2009-10 are tabled as follows:

	£ million
(a) Capital	1.24
(b) Running costs	2.68

The capital costs include the development of an IT case management system and running costs include staff and Commissioner recruitment and training.

From 1 March 2010 the IPC will be ready to receive applications for development consent and the estimated running costs for 2010-11 are set out in the Impact Assessment published in November 2007 and the Annex published in January 2009 which are available on the Communities and Local Government website. No major additional capital costs for 2010-11 are anticipated to those incurred in 2009-10.

Infrastructure Planning Commission: Pay

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 16 June 2009, *Official Report,* column 204W, on the Infrastructure Planning Commission, what the monetary value is of the remuneration paid to the chairman of the Commission is including *(a)* salary, *(b)* employee pension contribution, *(c)* travel expenses and *(d)* benefits in kind; whether any form of bonus or incentive payment is included in the package; and what (i) minimum length of contract and (ii) notice period applies. [317816]

John Healey: The annual financial monetary value of the remuneration paid to the Chair of the Commission is as follows:

Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC): Chair remuneration

	£/Hours
Basic salary	£184,000
Bonus structure	None
Employer's pension contribution	Not pensionable
Benefits in kind/Incentives	None
Contracted hours	4 days/week
Travel expenses (October to December 2009)	£3,538.85

Note: The IPC will publish the detail of expenses on their website on a quarterly basis.

In line with Schedule 1, Part 3 (1) of the Planning Act 2008, which stipulates that the chair must be appointed for a fixed period which must not be less than five years or more than eight years, the chair has been appointed for the minimum five years, which can be extended for a further three years subject to satisfactory performance. The appointment can be terminated early by either party, by giving three months notice, in writing.

Land: Databases

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1124W, on land: databases, what *(a)* type of information and *(b)* level of detail provided by infra-red aerial photography as part of the Pan-Government Agreement on geographical information. [317601]

Mr. I[illegible] Austin: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The Pan-Government Agreement colour infra-red aerial photography provides a representation of the real world that highlights actual landcover on the ground. It is commonly used in environmental applications as it is effective at discriminating variations in vegetation.

(b) The data are provided at 50cm resolution.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1645W, on local government finance, how many separate data attributes or indicators are collected as part of each of the datasets listed in the answer. [317114]

Barbara Follett: The information collected on each of the local government finance data sets can be found from the forms which can be accessed on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/usefulinformation/formstimetable/

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate the Audit Commission has made of the cost to local authorities of central government inspection, audit and compliance in 2008-09. [317859]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 23 February 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission has made no estimate of the cost to local authorities of central government inspection, audit and compliance in 2008-09.

The total fees charged to local authorities in 2008-09 for external audit by auditors appointed by the Audit Commission and for Audit Commission inspections are set out in the Commission's annual report and accounts for that year.

The inspectorates of local public services have jointly commissioned independent research into the costs to local authorities of compliance with Comprehensive Performance Assessment in 2008-09 and how this changed with the introduction of the new Comprehensive Area Assessment in 2009-10. This research is expected to be concluded in March 2010 and will be published as soon as it is available.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Local Government Finance Funding Changes Independent Inquiry

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 79 of the final report of the Lyons Inquiry into local government, if he will place in the Library a copy of the written submission to that Inquiry made by the National Audit Office. [317567]

Barbara Follett: I have placed a copy of the National Audit Office's submission to the Lyons Inquiry in the Library of the House.

Local Government: Bank Services

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities' requests for permission to capitalise potential losses on investments held in Icelandic banks have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* rejected; and on what grounds such bids have been rejected. [317749]

Barbara Follett: As capitalisation allows local authorities to use capital resources to meet revenue pressures applications are considered against strict and readily available criteria. All Icelandic capitalisation applications were assessed against the exceptional financial difficulties criteria.

The list of authorities who applied for capitalisation under exceptional financial difficulties is available on the Department's public website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/xls/1451009.xls

All bids were carefully considered, and the grounds for acceptance or rejection were the criteria for exceptional financial difficulties which are contained within the guidance to authorities. This is available on the Department's public website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1197739.pdf

Local Government: Cost Effectiveness

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 290W, on local government: cost effectiveness, for what reason the £250 million cost to local authorities of the Personal Care at Home Bill is not being classified as a new burden under his Department's new burdens principle; over what period and in which financial years local authorities will be required to make the personal care efficiency savings; and whether local authorities will be required to increase council tax or cut services if the personal care efficiency savings are not made. [317810]

Barbara Follett: The provisions under the Personal Care at Home Bill will be funded through a combination of additional grant and redirected local authority efficiency savings. The cost of providing free Personal Care has been calculated to be £335 million in the first half year from October 2010; £210 million of this will be funded by the Department of Health and £125 million from local government efficiencies. The full-year costs have been calculated to be £670 million. Of this, £250 million would be met by local authority efficiencies and £420 million would come from the Department of Health. Decisions about the funding of frontline services from 2011-12, including adult social care, will be taken as part of the normal spending review process, which will take into account both pressures and the scope for further efficiency gains.

The Government believe that it is right to expect councils to play their part to help deliver this new commitment. We have provided record investment in local government, with local authorities receiving £8.6 billion more over the current spending review. We have also confirmed in 'Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government' that we will free-up local resources through reducing burdens, targets and the level of ring-fencing. On top of this, low inflation and affordable pay settlements should mean that councils have room to redirect efficiency savings to deliver this priority.

The Government have made clear that it expects the average Band D council tax increase in England to fall to a 16 year low in 2010-11 and will not hesitate to cap any excessive council tax increases set by individual authorities.

Local Government: Debt Collection

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make an assessment of the effectiveness of Rossendale borough council's supervision of private bailiffs acting on that authority's behalf. [317174]

Barbara Follett: No. Any request for an assessment of Rossendale borough council's commercial contract with a private bailiff company should be raised with the council itself or the Audit Commission.

Local Government: Equality

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has provided to local authorities *(a)* under the formula grant system and *(b)* through specific grants to fund new burdens arising from new equality and diversity duties in each year since 2005-06. [317809]

Barbara Follett: The formula grant settlement in all these years took account of the spending pressures on all authorities' responsibilities, including equality and diversity duties, as well as the scope for efficiencies. No specific grants have been allocated relating to these issues.

Local Government: Pay

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost to local authorities of the planned increase in employers' National Insurance Contributions in each of the next three years. [317862]

Barbara Follett: There are no proposed or planned increases in employer's national insurance contributions in 2010-11. However, in 2011-12 employer's contributions are set to increase by 1 per cent. to 13.8 per cent. and the additional pressure this will put on the wage bills of local authorities will be considered, with all others during the next spending review. This will also take into account other factors, like the scope for continued efficiency gains.

Local Government: Pensions

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average employer contribution rate to each fund of the Local Government Pension Scheme is. [317806]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally. A summary of the 2007 triennial valuation exercises, prepared by the Society of County Treasurers, can be found at:

http://www.cipfa.org.uk/panels/pensions/download/2007_LGPS_Valuation_Survey_Results.pdf

Individual scheme administering authorities can provide details of contribution levels of all fund employers and fund average contribution data.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 770W, on local government and fire services: pensions, what the level is at which employer pension contributions to the local government pension scheme will be *(a)* capped and *(b)* shared. [317876]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Discussions are continuing with stakeholders about the final terms for cap and share to apply within the Local Government Pension Scheme having regard to the outcome of the 2010 actuarial valuation exercise.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to change the employee contribution rate for the Local Government Pension Scheme. [317986]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are no current plans to amend the Local Government Pension Scheme employee contribution tariff.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeowners are in receipt of assistance under the Homeowner Mortgage Protection Scheme [317344]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1297W.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households have been refused assistance under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme because the value of the property exceeded the eligibility criteria. [317863]

John Healey: Regional property price caps for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme have been in place since the scheme was launched in January 2009. They reflect the aim of the scheme to provide targeted support for vulnerable households at risk of homelessness.

The level of the caps was increased on 1 May and is now at least 150 per cent. of lower quartile property prices in each region. In addition, housing associations have flexibility to consider applications which exceed the cap if appropriate depending on household's individual circumstances.

During 2009 fewer than 5 per cent. of applications were deemed ineligible for support because their property exceeded the regional price cap.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many applications were made to the Homeowner Mortgage Protection Scheme from homeowners in Moray constituency in 2009; and how many of these met the eligibility criteria; [317971]

(2) how many homeowners are in receipt of help under the Homeowner Mortgage Protection Scheme in Moray constituency. [318002]

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications were made to the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme by homeowners in Angus constituency in 2009; and how many of these met the eligibility criteria. [318068]

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeowners in Perth and North Perthshire constituency are in receipt of help under the Homeowner Mortgage Protection Scheme. [317922]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1297W. This information is not collected at constituency level.

Non-Domestic Rates

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the proportion of eligible small firms which do not claim small business rate relief. [317807]

Barbara Follett: New work by CLG analysts, published on 9 December 2009, shows that take-up of small business rate relief (SBRR) is much better than some have previously claimed. The report "Small business rate relief—improving evidence on eligibility and take-up: Methodology" is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/smallbusinessmethod

and estimates that, of the around 1.2 million business properties in England below the current rateable value (RV) thresholds for SBRR, around 575,000 are occupied by eligible small businesses; and around 68 per cent. of those eligible were actually claiming the relief at 31 December 2006, the latest date for which we have information on the number of claimants.

This estimate of the number of properties claiming the relief will be updated for 2008-09 following the issue of the statistical release "Number of hereditaments benefiting from Small Business Rate Relief and the number of empty hereditaments: experimental statistics" that will be published on the Communities and Local Government website at the end of February.

This means that an estimated 32 per cent. of properties occupied by eligible small businesses were not claiming the relief as at December 31 2006. The total amount of relief granted to small businesses has increased by 34 per cent. in real terms since we introduced the scheme—rising from £202 million in 2005-06 to £298 million in 2008-09. The new analysis estimates that in 2008-09, of the £325 million total relief that would be granted if all 575,000 eligible properties had claimed, 92 per cent. was actually paid out.

We have taken action to make it as easy as possible for eligible small businesses to access the relief and so improve take-up. In 2007 we removed the requirement for claimants to re-apply each year, so that a small business only had to apply once in each revaluation period. And on December 9 2009 we laid before Parliament an Order to remove the requirement to re-apply for SBRR at revaluation in 2010, a move which has been welcomed by the Federation of Small Businesses.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the levy charged on the business rate multiplier to offset estimated losses in revenue due to rating appeals was in each year since 2005-06. [317984]

Barbara Follett: There is no additional levy added to the business rate multiplier to take account of estimated losses for appeal for each individual year. The business rate multiplier is calculated in a revaluation year according to the formula at schedule 7 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

The formula allows for the total rateable value of the ratings lists to be adjusted to take account of estimated losses in appeals. The subsequent multiplier for each year of the 2005 ratings list following the 2005-06 revaluation year was adjusted just by the RPI inflation.

The calculation of the 2005-06 multiplier including an adjustment for estimated losses in appeals is set out in the Business Rates Information letter that I have put in the House Library.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring that the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of its property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government have put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases, which in 2010-11 will ensure no business property sees its rates bill increase by more than 11 per cent. as a result of the revaluation, with maximum increases capped at just 3.5 per cent. for small properties. That is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1132W, on non-domestic rates: empty properties, if he will place in the Library a copy of the data on empty properties provided by each local authority as part of the most recent national non-domestic rates return. [317599]

Barbara Follett: Valid data at individual local authority level will be available following the issue of the statistical release "Number of hereditaments benefiting from Small Business Rate Relief and the number of empty hereditaments: experimental statistics" that will be published on the Communities and Local Government website at the end of February.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the correspondence received from GEFCO UK in relation to the new business rate regime affecting port businesses. [317801]

Barbara Follett: As explained to the hon. Member on 20 July 2009, it would be inappropriate for Ministers to release correspondence they receive without authority.

Parish Councils: Council Tax

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which parish councils levy a precept on council tax. [317854]

Barbara Follett: This information is not held centrally.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the gross revenue raised from parish precepts was on council tax in England in each year since 1997-98; and what the average parish precept on a Band D bill was in each such year. [317857]

Barbara Follett: Details of the gross revenue raised from parish precepts on council tax and the average parish precept on a band D bill in England since 2000-01 are published in table A3c of "Local Government Financial Statistics England No. 19 2009" that was published in May 2009.

A copy of this publication is available in the Library of the House and a copy is also available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/financialstatistics192009

Private Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* start-up and *(b)* ongoing costs of his Department's telephone helpline for tenants in the private rented sector; [317543]

(2) how much his Department plans to allocate to its new telephone helpline for tenants in the private rented sector. [317544]

Mr. Ian Austin: Our policy statement on the private rented sector published on 3 February included, as part of a package of measures designed to help tenants, landlords and letting agents, a commitment to set up a dedicated telephone helpline for private sector tenants by the summer of this year.

As the statement makes clear, we are discussing the details of how this proposal will be implemented with stakeholders in the voluntary sector.

Private Rented Housing: Planning Permission

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the written ministerial statement of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 54-6WS, on planning, what estimate has been made of the increase in the number of planning applications likely to result from the proposed changes. [317875]

Mr. Ian Austin: An estimate of the increase in the number of planning applications as a result of the proposed changes will be set out in the final impact assessment which is being produced in association with the implementing legislation.

Regional Planning and Development

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many core strategies have been approved by the relevant local planning authority to date; and how many Local Development Frameworks include a full set of documentation as required under the Local Development Scheme. [317855]

Mr. Ian Austin: Development Plan Documents are approved by local planning authorities at different stages: at publication; at submission of the strategy to the Secretary of State for an independent Examination in Public; and at adoption. The following table sets out the latest position for core strategies.

Local Development Schemes are a forward look setting out the timetables for the Development Plan Documents that local authorities intend to prepare or review. These are subject to ongoing change as new circumstances and requirements arise. The LDS should therefore rarely if ever be completed.

	Adopted	*Submitted to SoS but not yet adopted*	*Published but not yet submitted*
Core strategies	61	25	31

Social Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many registered social landlords there were in 2009; and how many properties were owned by them. [316809]

Mr. Ian Austin: On 31 March 2009 there were 1,830 landlords registered with the Tenant Services Authority and they owned a total of 2,379,728 units of housing.

A unit of housing is a single family home: a bedsit, flat, family house or a bedspace[1] in a hostel.

[1] Individuals placed in a hostel will occupy a bedspace in either a private room or a shared dormitory.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research his Department has conducted into the income of households in the social rented sector. [316818]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Survey of English Housing (SEH) has been the Department's main source of information on income by housing tenure up to 2007-08. From 2008-09 estimates will be mainly derived from the new English Housing Survey (EHS). An additional source is DWP's Family Resources Survey (FRS).

The most recently published annual report, Housing in England 2007-08, contains tables derived from both the SEH and the FRS. The report can be accessed at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1346249.pdf

Tenant Services Authority

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* communications audit, *(b)* campaign book, *(c)* communications plan and *(d)* political and key stakeholder outreach plan provided to the Tenant Services Authority under its contract with APCO Worldwide. [317869]

John Healey: No such documentation exists. A copy of the contract briefs is available in the Library of the House.

Unitary Councils: Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the projected *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum cost savings estimated for each unitary authority established since 2007 were prior to the authority's inception; what cost saving targets were set when each was established; and what savings each has achieved to date. [318038]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 882W.

Youth Services: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department allocated to local authorities for youth services in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11 through (i) formula funding, (ii) specific grants, (iii) special grants and (iv) area-based grants; and how much such funding of each type was earmarked for (A) revenue support and (B) capital expenditure in each such year. [317856]

Barbara Follett: Neither formula grant nor Area Based Grant are hypothecated to any particular purpose. The Department has paid no specific or special grants to authorities for youth services in the years in question.

JUSTICE

Approved Premises

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average annual cost of housing a person in a probation hostel or approved premises was in the latest period for which figures are available. [317096]

Maria Eagle: The current grant for approved premises (formerly known as probation or bail hostels) equates to an average £26,600 per bed space for the current financial year, unchanged from the previous year. More than one resident will occupy a single bed space in approved premises over the course of a year, with an average stay of 74.7 days per resident.

Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Feltham and Heston constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [316673]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice's work spans criminal, civil and family justice, democracy, rights and the constitution. Every year around 9 million people use our services in 900 locations across the United Kingdom, including 650 courts and tribunals and 139 prisons in England and Wales.

The range of the Department's policies and actions is wide and the statistical information relating to it is not normally collected on a constituency basis. Consequently, some of the information requested in the question cannot be provided in the form requested except at a disproportionate cost.

Although data on sentencing for the period are not available for the constituency of Feltham and Heston, they are available for London. These show the total number of offenders sentenced annually was 202,478 in 1997 and 242,429 in 2008, the latest period for which such information is available.

The number of offences brought to justice for London increased from 119,531 for the 12 months ending 31 March 2001 (the earliest period since which such data have been compiled) to 230,202 (provisional figures) for the 12 months ending 31 March 2009.

With regard to prosecutions, data are not available for the constituency of Feltham and Heston. However, the total number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts by the Metropolitan Police was 260,328 in 1997 compared to 279,581 in 2008.

The latest data, which cover reoffending in the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, showed that the three month reoffending rate for offenders on the probation caseload in Hounslow was 8.15 per cent. After controlling for changes in the characteristics of offenders on the probation caseload, there was a reduction in reoffending of 6.06 per cent. compared to the 2007-08 baseline. Data are not available prior to 2007 on this basis.

The number of persons commencing court order supervision by the Probation Service in London was 17,214 in 1997 and 23,787 in 2008.

163,570 civil non-family proceedings were started in the county courts of London Civil and Family HM Courts Service (HMCS) area and Staines in 2008, compared to 275,769 in 1998, the first year for which these figures are available. In respect of family law, there were also 15,680 private law applications and 870 public law applications made in the county or High Courts of this HMCS area and Staines in 2008-09, compared to 11,931 and 1,095 respectively in 2003-04, the first annual period for which these figures are available.

In addition, at a national level:

Local communities are being better engaged in criminal justice—by giving them a say in the types of Community Payback projects offenders carry out and allowing them to see justice being done, for example through the use of high visibility jackets. Offenders have now worked more than 14 million hours, with an estimated value to the taxpayer of over £30 million.

Major constitutional reforms have been delivered, including devolution, the Human Rights Act, Freedom of Information, Lords Reform, and a new Supreme Court for the UK.

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people are employed at the *(a)* national and *(b)* regional level in the National Offender Management Service. [317093]

Maria Eagle: On 31 December 2009 the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Headquarters employed 2,260 at national headquarters and 1,094 at regional offices and in regionally organised technical support teams. A further 1,021 staff are employed by the NOMS Shared Service Centre in Newport, South Wales.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners serving sentences of less than 12 months have a court recommendation for deportation. [317127]

Mr. Straw: At the end of June 2009, there were 990 foreign national prisoners (FNPs) in England and Wales, serving a sentence of less than 12 months.

Data on how many of these FNPs also received court recommendation for deportation are not held centrally and could not be provided without manual checking of records at disproportionate cost.

This figure has been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prison Accommodation

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Harborough of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 774-75W, on prison accommodation, how many cells were not in use in each *(a)* prison for adult males, *(b)* prison for adult females, *(c)* young offender institution for males and *(d)* young offender institution for females on 1 January 2010 or the latest date for which figures are available. [318056]

Mr. Straw: As at 29 January 2010 there were 1,598 places recorded as out of use from the total certified normal accommodation (CNA) of the prison estate. This represents 2.1 per cent. of the total CNA.

The data available do not allow for a breakdown of whether these places are for young offenders or adults.

Comprehensive information on why these places are out of use is not held centrally, however the majority of out of use accommodation will be due to maintenance or refurbishment work taking place.

There is a planned programme of refurbishment of accommodation which requires the temporary closure of prison places. This allows the critical maintenance of the estate to be undertaken whilst having no significant change on the number of net places in use.

The following table shows the total number of places that were recorded as out of use by male and female establishments.

HMP Ashwell has 415 places out of use following an incident in April 2009. HMP Wealstun has 300 places out of use while part of the establishment is re-rolled to closed conditions.

Establishment name	*Number of places out of use*	*Percentage of CNA*
Male establishments		
Ashfield	7	1.7
Ashwell	415	69.3
Aylesbury	12	2.6
Bedford	1	0.9
Channings Wood	2	0.3
Cookham Wood	25	17.2
Dartmoor	62	9.8
Dorchester	8	5.5
Edmunds Hill	10	2.6
Elmley (Sheppey Cluster)	18	2.4
Featherstone	29	4.3

Establishment name	*Number of places out of use*	*Percentage of CNA*
Full Sutton	8	1.3
Grendon	23	9.1
Haslar	22	13.8
Hindley	66	13.0
Isle of Wight[1]	1	0.1
Lincoln	12	2.7
Liverpool	10	0.8
Long Lartin	13	2
Manchester	16	1.7
Moorland	13	1.8
Pentonville	5	0.5
Portland	72	11.9
Ranby	1	0.1
Rochester	32	4.2
Spring Hill	1	0.3
Stoke Heath	58	9.1
Swaleside	127	13.6
Swansea	18	7.3
Wakefield	1	0.1
Wealstun	300	37
Whatton	45	0.4
Whitemoor	28	5.7
Woodhill	5	0.8
Wormwood Scrubs	23	2
Female establishments		
Askham Grange	24	16.0
Holloway	29	5.5
Low Newton	45	14.3
New Hall	9	2.3
Styal	2	0.4

[1] The sites at Albany, Camphill and Parkhurst constitute HMP Isle of Wight.

Prison Officers

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers were *(a)* disciplined or *(b)* dismissed from (i) privately and (ii) publicly managed prisons in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [318059]

Maria Eagle: In the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) information is only held centrally in respect of staff disciplined or dismissed from publicly managed prisons. There is no requirement for privately managed prisons to notify NOMS headquarters of any disciplinary action taken against their employees. In order to provide the information required in respect of the privately managed prisons, we would have to contact each of the prisons concerned and ask them to submit their records for the last five years to NOMS so that it could be collated. This would incur disproportionate cost.

The following table provides a breakdown of the number of prison officers in the public sector Prison Service who have been disciplined or dismissed in each of the last five calendar years. Staff can be dismissed from the public sector Prison Service if their attendance, conduct or performance falls below the required standards. The data given for dismissals includes all prison officers from publicly managed prisons who have left the service for inefficiency, conduct and performance reasons.

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Total*
Disciplinary cases[1]	156	160	185	122	151	774
Dismissals[2]	172	167	200	185	170	894

[1] Data on disciplinary cases are derived from the HR Discipline Database and the Shared Service Personnel Management Database. As with any large-scale administrative systems these are liable to a certain level of inaccuracy. It includes all centrally recorded disciplinary cases excluding those resulting in dismissal from service.

[2] Data includes dismissals for inefficiency, conduct and performance reasons and are derived from the Oracle HR system and the former Personnel Corporate Database. As with any large-scale administrative systems these are liable to a certain level of inaccuracy.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average duration of standard initial training for prison officers is in *(a)* privately and *(b)* publicly managed prisons. [318061]

Maria Eagle: In privately managed prisons the duration of initial training for prison custody officers (equivalent to prison officers in the public sector) is nine weeks. The training is mainly classroom based but includes job shadowing in the prison.

All newly recruited prison officers in public sector prisons are required to complete a one year foundation training programme, leading to a level 3 National Vocational Qualification in Custodial Care (CCNVQ). Training begins with an eight week prison officer entry level training course, which is mainly college-based. This provides staff with all the underpinning knowledge and understanding in core skills required to successfully complete their CCNVQ within 12 months of joining the National Offender Management Service.

Prison: Offences

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisons were free from *(a)* illegal drug use and *(b)* mobile telephone smuggling in each year since 1997. [317762]

Maria Eagle: Prisons have achieved considerable success in reducing the level of drug misuse against a background of continuing high demand for drugs. Drug misuse as measured by random mandatory drug testing has fallen 68 per cent. since 1996-97.

The following table gives the number of prisons that reported no drug misuse, as measured by random mandatory drug testing (MDT), in each year since 1996-97. Many prisons also report very low levels of drug misuse. The varying nature of individual prison populations can result in fluctuating month to month MDT positive rates. Many prisons achieve periods of zero positive rates but are not drug free over an entire 12 month period.

	Number of prisons reporting no drug misuse, as measured by random MDT
1996-97	1
1997-98	0
1998-99	0
1999-2000	1
2000-01	2
2001-02	2
2002-03	2
2003-04	0
2004-05	1
2005-06	1

	Number of prisons reporting no drug misuse, as measured by random MDT
2006-07	1
2007-08	2
2008-09	1

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

The data are not subject to audit.

Due to the covert nature of mobile phone use in prisons, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is not able to identify definitively prisons where there is a complete absence of mobile phone smuggling. NOMS is acutely aware of the threat posed by mobile phone use in prisons and has introduced measures to assist prisons in minimising the number of mobile phones entering prison, finding mobile phones within prisons and disrupting the use of mobile phones that cannot be found. NOMS is working to implement systems to improve the reporting by prisons of mobile phone seizures which will assist in understanding the scale of the issue.

Prisoners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* high, *(b)* medium and *(c)* low projections he has made for the prison population in each of the next five years. [317134]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice produces annual projections of the prison population in England and Wales, most recently in August 2009.

These project the prison population under three different scenarios, based on different assumptions about future sentencing trends: the Medium scenario assumes no increases or decreases in custody rates or determinate sentence lengths. The High/Low scenarios reflect a 1 per cent. per annum increase/decrease in custody rates and a 0.5 per cent. increase/decrease in the average (determinate) custodial sentence lengths.

Other impacts included in the projections, such as those of legislation and processes, are applied equally to all scenarios. These cover the anticipated impacts of policy and process initiatives that have agreed implementation timetables. These assumptions and anticipated impacts have remained unchanged since last year projections.

The requested information is shown in the following table:

Projected prison population (end June figures)

	High	*Medium*	*Low*
2010	85,700	84,900	83,900
2011	88,600	86,900	84,900
2012	90,200	87,700	84,900
2013	91,100	87,600	84,000
2014	92,400	88,000	83,500

Notes:

1. All numbers rounded to the nearest hundred.

2. The prison population is influenced by diverse factors that can mean that the actual future prison population may not be the same as that projected: changes in sentencer behaviour, policy decisions and the criminal justice process, which can respond to a multitude of environmental factors such as high profile criminal cases and public debate; implementation of new policies and processes without a timetable, or for which a quantitative assessment of the impact is currently not possible; unknown future policy, process and political changes.

More details on the projections may be found in the latest published bulletin, "Prison Population Projections 2009-2015" Ministry of Justice Statistics Bulletin, 28 August 2009. This is available at the following webpage:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonpopulation.htm

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on projections for prison *(a)* population and *(b)* capacity over the next two years. [317135]

Mr. Straw: The latest projections for the prison population were published on the 28 August 2009, in the Ministry of Justice publication "Prison Population Projections 2009-15" available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics.htm

They cover the period August 2009—June 2015 and investigate three future scenarios.

These projections were produced using a version of the long term prison population projections model that was developed in the 1990's and has worked well. However, in line with good practice, further development of the long-term modelling of the prison projections is being undertaken in 2009 and 2010, to ensure the model continues to perform and is using the most up to date techniques and data. A new, more flexible framework will be developed.

This development process has provided the opportunity for stakeholders to influence the way in which the model is developed and they have been asked to comment, or ask for further details, via the MoJ website. At the current time no comments or other representations have been received.

With regards to prison capacity the Ministry of Justice has received different forms of representation on future prison capacity from a variety of sources, among them Members of Parliament, non-governmental organisations and members of the public. Details of all these representations are not all held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what his most recent estimate is of the average annual cost to his Department of holding in prison *(a)* an adult and *(b)* a person aged under 21 years; [317277]

(2) what criteria are used to determine the average cost of a prison place in England and Wales; and whether this includes the cost of the National Offender Management Service national and regional structures. [317278]

Maria Eagle: For 2008-09, the average cost per prisoner in an adult prison was £39,600 and in a young offender institution was £53,400.

These average costs comprise the expenditure on public and private prisons (as recorded in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Agency Annual Report and Accounts), increased by an apportionment of relevant costs borne centrally and in the regions by NOMS. This involves some estimation. In addition, expenditure met centrally by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) is included. The figures do not include the cost of prisoners held in police or court cells under Operation Safeguard, nor expenditure met by other Government Departments (e.g. Health and Education). The prisoner escort service costs are included. Where the costs of young people are recharged by NOMS to the YJB, expenditure is shown gross and not reduced by income from the YJB.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's *(a)* high, *(b)* medium and *(c)* low projections of the prison population are for each month to December 2011. [318057]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice produces annual projections of the prison population in England and Wales, most recently in August 2009.

These project the prison population under three different scenarios, based on different assumptions about future sentencing trends: the Medium scenario assumes no increases or decreases in custody rates or determinate sentence lengths. The High/Low scenarios reflect a 1 per cent. per annum increase/decrease in custody rates and a 0.5 per cent. increase/decrease in the average (determinate) custodial sentence lengths.

Other impacts included in the projections, such as those of legislation and processes, are applied equally to all scenarios. These cover the anticipated impacts of policy and process initiatives that have agreed implementation timetables. These assumptions and anticipated impacts have remained unchanged since last year projections.

The requested information is shown in the following table:

Monthly values of projected prison population for High, Medium and Low scenarios

	High	*Medium*	*Low*
July 2009	83,962	83,962	83,962
August 2009	83,400	83,300	83,200
September 2009	83,700	83,600	83,400
October 2009	84,100	83,900	83,600
November 2009	84,200	83,900	83,500
December 2009	82,300	82,000	81,500
January 2010	83,300	82,900	82,400
February 2010	83,600	83,100	82,500
March 2010	84,800	84,200	83,500
April 2010	85,000	84,400	83,600
May 2010	85,000	84,300	83,400
June 2010	85,700	84,900	83,900
July 2010	86,600	85,700	84,700
August 2010	86,400	85,500	84,400
September 2010	86,700	85,700	84,400
October 2010	86,800	85,700	84,400
November 2010	87,300	86,100	84,800
December 2010	85,600	84,400	82,900
January 2011	86,500	85,200	83,600
February 2011	86,800	85,400	83,700
March 2011	87,800	86,400	84,600
April 2011	87,700	86,100	84,300
May 2011	88,000	86,300	84,400
June 2011	88,600	86,900	84,900
July 2011	89,200	87,400	85,300
August 2011	89,200	87,300	85,200
September 2011	89,300	87,400	85,200
October 2011	89,400	87,400	85,200
November 2011	89,600	87,500	85,200
December 2011	87,400	85,200	82,800

Notes:

1. Data are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Data are given for the last day of each month.
3. The prison population is influenced by diverse factors that can mean that the actual future prison population may not be the same as that projected: changes in sentencer behaviour, policy decisions and the criminal justice process, which can respond to a multitude of environmental factors such as high profile criminal cases and public debate; implementation of new policies and processes without a timetable, or for which a quantitative assessment of the impact is currently not possible; unknown future policy, process and political changes.
4. The July 2009 prison population figure is a provisional figure published on the 31 July 2009 by HM Prison Service: www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/assets/documents/1000481131072009_web_report.doc

More details on the projections may be found in the latest published bulletin, "Prison Population Projections 2009-2015" Ministry of Justice Statistics Bulletin, 28 August 2009. This is available at the following webpage:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonpopulation.htm

Prisoners Release

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of offenders who *(a)* on release from custodial sentences and *(b)* on commencement of a community sentence, are moved to a different geographical area from their home address for (i) reasons of rehabilitation, (ii) reasons of victim safety and (iii) other reasons. [318045]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not collated centrally. Offenders are transferred between probation areas for a variety of reasons, including rehabilitation and victim safety. However, there is no mechanism is place to record centrally the reasons behind these transfers.

To answer the question, each probation area would need to review their case load to establish the number of offenders who have been transferred between probation areas, and then to examine those cases to determine the reasons behind each move. This could be achieved only by incurring disproportionate cost.

Prisoners Transfers

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of transferring prisoners to Crown Dependencies in each of the last five years. [317133]

Mr. Straw: The cost of the transferring prisoners from England and Wales to the three Crown Dependencies (Guernsey, Jersey, and the Isle of Man) was as follows:

	£
2006	7,431.78
2007	4,463.40
2008	4,591.52
2009	7,386.84

The costs shown cover the cost of the flights for the prisoner and escorting staff. The cost of transferring the prisoner from a prison to the airport is covered by the inter prison transfer contract and is not separately recorded. The cost of transfer before 2006 was met from the contract in place at the time. Costs incurred under that contract were not separately recorded.

Prisoners: Education and Drugs

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessors spent on *(a)* prisoner education and *(b)* drug treatment programmes for prisoners in each of the last five years. [317245]

Maria Eagle: Table 1 following shows the amount spent on prisoner education and training in each of the last five years in public sector prisons in England, funded by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills and its predecessors:

Table 1

	£ million
2005-06	151
2006-07	156
2007-08	175
2008-09	178
2009-10	178

The current budget has increased threefold since 2001.

In 2003 a ministerial decision was taken that the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) took responsibility for planning, funding and, with the then Regional Offender Managers (ROMS), commissioning of a new Offenders' Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) in public sector prisons and for offenders under supervision in community in England. OLASS came into effect across England with effect from 31 July 2006.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) also spent a further £30 million in European Social Funds. This was used for a number of regionally commissioned projects around vocational training and employer engagement in both prisons and the community for the two calendar years 2006 and 2007. They also established a £13.9 million budget from EQUAL funding for the period December 2006 to March 2008 to meet additional provision for offenders both in custody and in the community.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) gained co-financing organisation status in January 2009 and successfully bid for a total of £50 million of European Social Funding to enhance the skills and employment services to offenders in prison and the community. NOMS has been granted the funding over 27 months to increase offenders' employability and improve their access to mainstream support provision. Planning is already under way to extend the funding into a second phase up to 2013.

In addition, training for prisoners is undertaken, mainly by Prison Service staff, while prisoners work or are engaged in various areas such as prison industries, catering, physical education, land based activities, industrial cleaning and laundries. The central costs of the training elements of these, mainly production functions, are not kept centrally.

Table 2 shows Ministry of Justice/Home Office additional funding allocations for the delivery of drug interventions in prisons over the last five years. The figures include funding for accredited drug treatment programmes, Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare services (CARATs), the Young People's Substance Misuse Service (for 15 to 18-year-olds only) and Compact Based Drug Testing.

In addition to this the Ministry of Justice has permanently transferred £11.3 million a year to primary care trusts for the delivery of clinical drug treatment in prisons.

Table 2

					£ million
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
CARATs	26.8	30.3	32.1	33	34.2
Young People's Substance Misuse Service	4.3	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7
Accredited Drug Treatment Programmes	21.1	21.7	21.7	21.8	22.4
Compact Based Drug Testing (CBDT)[1]	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
Total MoJ funding for prison drug interventions	60.5	65	66.8	67.8	69.6

[1] CBDT includes voluntary drug testing and incentive based drug testing.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has made an estimate of the number of foreign nationals likely to serve custodial sentences in England and Wales in each year to 2014. [317130]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice does not undertake separate population projections for the foreign national population.

Prisoners: Gender Identity Disorder

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 865-6W, on prisoners: gender identity disorder, in what form the advice and information contained within the draft guidance is made available to prisoners who do not request it. [316791]

Maria Eagle: The guidance or advice is normally given when requested by prison staff who have been approached by prisoners seeking this information, or where they identify a prisoner on reception who is undergoing gender re-assignment treatment. There are also occasions when prisoners have written direct to officials in the National Offender Management Service for advice or information.

The information or advice will normally be given to prison staff in the form of a detailed email with relevant attachments (a copy of the draft document). In the case of prisoners; they receive a detailed written reply which would also encourage them to speak to their personal officer or a member of the health care team. A copy of the draft document would not be supplied to prisoners.

Prisoners: Mothers

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of women in prison who *(a)* have children, *(b)* have children and no husband or long-term partner and *(c)* have no registered address. [318058]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not routinely collected. However, a recent Ministry of Justice study suggested that 55 per cent. of women in prison are mothers. Work has begun with the Department for Children, Schools and Families to implement the recently published Framework for Supporting Offenders' Families. Within four days of entering custody, prisoners should have an assessment of their accommodation needs and if necessary, prison staff will provide advice and guidance to help them find settled accommodation prior to release.

Prisons : Manpower

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of continuous employment in the same prison was of *(a)* prison officers and *(b)* prison governors in (i) privately and (ii) publicly managed prisons in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [318060]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is set out as follows:

Public Sector Establishments

Information on the length of continuous service in the same public sector Prison Service establishment for both prison officers and operational managers is contained in the following table. The information relates to the average length of time that the officers or managers, who were in post on 31 December each year, had previously spent at their then current establishment.

Average time in current establishment of public sector staff

	Average length of service (years) in current establishment	
As at 31 December each year	*Prison officers*[1]	*Operational managers*[2]
2009	8.9	5.8
2008	8.4	5.5
2007	8.2	5.3
2006	8.1	5.3
2005	8.0	5.1

[1] Prison officers only, does not include senior or principal officers.

[2] Includes all grades of operational managers, not only the in-charge governor. Manager G to senior manager A.

Private Sector Establishments[1]

Information about private sector establishments has been provided by individual contractors where available. Limitations in the data available mean that not all private sector establishments have information available in a format that is compatible with the question. Information for these establishments is presented in a separate table.

The private sector establishments have been in operation for a relatively short time and consequently the average length of service is inevitably lower than in public sector establishments where some individual officers have been in post for up to 40 years.

Average time in current establishment of private sector staff[1]

	Average length of service (years) in current establishment	
As at 31 December each year	*Prison custody officers*	*Governors*[2]
2009	4.1	6.0
2008	4.2	5.0
2007	3.9	4.8
2006	3.8	5.6
2005	3.9	4.6

[1] Information relates to Altcourse, Bronzefield, Dovegate (since 2007 only), Forest Bank and Peterborough.

[2] The definition of governor differs across contractors from all managers to only the in-charge manager.

Proportion of all staff[1] *with more than two years service*

	Proportion of staff with more than two years service in establishment (Percentage)
2009	76.9
2008	63.0
2007	65.2
2006	65.1
2005[2]	n/a

[1] Information relates to all staff at Ashfield, Doncaster and Lowdham Grange.

[2] Information not available for 2005.

Prisons: Dogs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* passive and *(b)* active dogs there are in each prison in England and Wales; and on what basis they are distributed. [317400]

Maria Eagle: Allocation of drug detection dogs around the estate is decided on a regional basis, according to need. The profile is not static. In some regions there is a regional pool of dogs and handlers, moving from prison to prison as required. In other regions dogs and handlers are allocated to and permanently based in individual prisons as required.

As of October 2009 the Prison Service had 216 active drug dogs and 204 passive drug dogs in prisons, allocated as follows:

		Number
Prison	*Active drug dogs*	*Passive drug dogs*
Acklington	2	1
Ashfield	0	1
Ashwell	1	1
Aylesbury	1	0
Bedford	2	2
Belmarsh	4	2
Birmingham	4	2
Blantyre House	0	0
Blundeston	2	2
Brinsford	2	2
Bristol	2	2
Brixton	2	2
Bronzefield	1	1
Bullingdon	2	2
Bullwood Hall	0	0
Canterbury	0	0
Cardiff	1	1
Castington	2	2
Channings Wood	2	2
Chelmsford	3	2
Coldingley	2	2
Cookham Wood	0	0

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[1] Information on average length of service was not available from the HR systems of Wolds and Parc without undertaking a large-scale manual data collection exercise.

		Number
Prison	*Active drug dogs*	*Passive drug dogs*
Dartmoor	2	2
Deerbolt	2	2
Dorchester	2	2
Dovegate	4	3
Downview	1	1
Drake Hall	0	1
Durham	4	4
East Sutton Park	0	0
Eastwood Park	2	2
Edmunds Hill	2	2
Elmley	0	0
Erlestoke	2	1
Exeter	2	2
Featherstone	1	1
Feltham	1	1
Ford	1	1
Foston Hall	1	1
Frankland	3	3
Full Sutton	3	4
Gartree	2	2
Glen Parva	2	2
Gloucester	2	2
Grendon	2	2
Guys Marsh	0	0
Hewell	6	6
Highdown	2	2
Highpoint	4	4
Hollesley Bay	1	1
Holloway	2	2
Holme House	2	2
Huntercombe	0	0
Isle of Wight	6	5
Kingston	2	2
Latchmere House	0	0
Leicester	2	2
Lewes	2	1
Leyhill	4	2
Lincoln	1	1
Littlehay	2	2
Long Lartin	5	5
Low Newton	1	1
Lowdham Grange	1	1
Maidstone	1	1
Manchester	4	3
Morton Hall	1	1
North Sea Camp	1	1
North West Area Search Team[1]	14	13
Norwich	3	3
Nottingham	2	2
Onley	1	1
Parc	1	1
Pentonville	3	3
Peterborough	2	2
Portland	2	1
Ranby	2	2
Reading	1	1
Rochester	2	2
Rye Hill	2	1
Send	1	1
Shepton Mallet	1	1
Shrewsbury	2	1
Springhill	0	0
Stafford	2	2
Standford Hill	1	0
Stocken	4	4
Stoke Heath	2	2
Sudbury	2	2
Swaleside	2	2
Swansea	1	1
Swinfen Hall	1	1
The Mount	3	3
The Verne	1	1
Usk/Prescoed	0	0
Wakefield	3	4
Wandsworth	3	3
Warren Hill	1	1
Wayland	3	4
Wellingborough	2	2
Werrington	0	0
Wharton	1	1
Whitemoor	4	4
Winchester	1	2
Woodhill	4	3
Wormwood Scrubs	2	2
Yorkshire and Humber Area Search Team[2]	11	10
Total	216	204

[1] The North West Area Search Team covers the following prisons: Altcourse, Buckley Hall, Forest Bank, Garth, Haverigg, Hindley, Kennet, Kirkham, Lancaster Castle/Farms, Liverpool, Preston, Risley, Styal, Thorn Cross and Wymott.

[2] The Yorkshire and Humber Area Search Team covers the following prisons: Askham Grange, Doncaster, Everthorpe, Hull, Leeds, Lindholme, Moorlands, New Hall, Northallerton, Wealstun, Wetherby and Wolds.

Prisons: Drugs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether a positive mandatory drug test automatically results in the search of a prison cell. [317398]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service's National Security Framework (NSF) does not prescribe that a cell search should follow a positive mandatory drug test. Current NSF policy requires that cells must be searched using authorised national procedures set out in the document. The frequency of routine cell searching is a matter for local discretion and should be determined as part of local searching strategies to meet local security, control and resource needs of the establishment.

In addition, cell searches may also be conducted on an intelligence-led basis or on reasonable suspicion that an item of contraband is secreted within a cell.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance has been issued on the procedure to be followed by prison service staff when a sniffer dog makes a positive indication of the presence of illicit drugs on *(a)* a visitor, *(b)* a contractor, *(c)* a prisoner and *(d)* a prison officer. [317399]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Passive Drug Dog Guidelines, issued to all prisons, recommends that:

(a) and *(b)* when a passive drug dog indicates against a social visitor or contractor a repeat screen with the dog should be considered. Security staff should then question the visitor/contractor and investigate whether any further intelligence or evidence exists. If no further information exists, the visit can proceed but in closed conditions or the visitor can leave the prison. The prison's police intelligence officer should also be informed. If no further information exists on a contractor, they can be permitted entry to the prison. If further evidence and/or intelligence exists, depending on its nature, the visitor/contractor may be full (strip) searched and/or the police may be called;

(c) when a passive drug dog indicates against a prisoner the prisoner should be full (strip) searched. If no substance is found the prisoner should be required to undergo a suspicion mandatory drug test. The prisoner's cell should also be searched. If drugs are found the prisoner should be referred to the prison adjudication system. If drug finds are substantial, indicating intent to supply, the police may be called. Other evidence and intelligence will also be considered following which further administrative action may be taken;

(d) when a passive drug dog indicates against a member of prison staff the member of staff should be given a rub down search and asked to complete a questionnaire inquiring whether there is any reason why they may have come into contact with drugs. The member of staff should only proceed once all the information is verified. If drugs are found the police should be called.

Prisons: Mobile Phones

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what progress he has made in *(a)* trialling and *(b)* evaluating disruption technologies for mobile telephones in prisons; [318054]

(2) in which prisons mobile telephone signal blockers are in operation. [318055]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service is trialling a variety of technologies in a number of establishments in support of our strategy to minimise the number of mobile phones entering prisons; find mobile phones that are smuggled into prisons; and disrupt mobile phones that we cannot find. For security reasons, it is not appropriate to disclose the location of these trials.

This is a challenging area of work where we are working closely with mobile network operators and Ofcom where appropriate to ensure full evaluation of the pilots.

Probation: Per Capita Costs

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what factors are taken into account in calculating the cost of individual probation supervision; [317092]

(2) what factors are taken into account in calculating the estimated cost of probation supervision of an individual *(a)* with a condition and *(b)* without a condition. [317098]

Maria Eagle: The supervision requirement is one of 12 requirements of a community order. The factors taken into account when costing the supervision requirement are:

offender tier (there are four tiers in the National Offender Management Model describing different case management approaches and map against different resource levels and offender manager competences);

the length of the offender's sentence;

the offender's gender;

the grade of staff working with the offender; and

the time taken by staff to deliver the supervision requirement, which includes meetings with the offender, liaison with providers of specialist advice and feeding back to the offender manager. The level of engagement is primarily dependent on the tier of the offender.

Costs estimated using this bottom up process are not the full costs since they do not include overheads. Full costs of the supervision requirement will be collected and published in order to benchmark the whole of the probation system by the end of 2011.

Probation: Sex Offender Treatment Programme

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost of probation supervision of an individual with a sex offender programme attachment was in the latest year for which information is available. [317095]

Maria Eagle: The funding for the supervision of offenders and the delivery of sex offender programmes in the community is part of the general grant given to probation areas or trusts. The costs will vary and depend on a number of factors including the risk presented by the individual, the level of supervision required, the programme the individual attends, and the arrangements for delivery in the particular area. It is not possible to accurately disaggregate the cost of this work.

Full costs of probation services will be collected and published to benchmark the whole of the probation system by the end of 2011.

Public Opinion

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* other deliberative forms of public opinion research in each month of the last two years. [317157]

Mr. Straw: Monthly data on the amount spent on focus groups and other forms of deliberative public opinion research could currently be provided only at disproportionate cost as the information requested on expenditure is not held centrally. However, a search of local records has identified a number of projects undertaken in the 2008-09 and 2009-10 financial years where focus groups were used, the expenditure on which is provided as follows.

Table 1: Focus Groups: Ministry of Justice

	£
2008-09	435,218
2009-10	53,039

Figures in the table above are estimates including VAT and are based on a collation of local returns as no central records are available. They exclude any focus groups run by NDPBs.

With regard to deliberative research, between October 2009 and February 2010, the Ministry of Justice held a series of deliberative events on Identity, Values and a possible Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. It is not possible to finalise the actual costs at this stage, however, it is anticipated that this will come to less than £1 million in total.

Rehabilitation Centres: Young People

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many intensive fostering places are available under the Youth Rehabilitation Order in each youth offending team area; what the average cost per place is; and whether he plans to increase the number of places available under that Order. [317548]

Maria Eagle: Intensive fostering is being piloted by the Youth Justice Board and 25 places are currently available in the youth offending teams (YOTs) that are taking part in the pilot. There are 10 places in Wessex, six in Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent, three in Trafford and six across London.

The cost of a placement currently ranges between £2,220 to £2,385 a week. A further six places will be provided in 2010-11, four in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough YOTs and two in Derby City YOT. Extension of intensive fostering more widely will be subject to future spending reviews.

Unpaid Work

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost of supervising a person on unpaid work for *(a)* 160 hours and *(b)* 240 hours was in the latest period for which figures are available. [317097]

Maria Eagle: The funding for the supervision of offenders sentenced to unpaid work is part of the general grant provided to probation areas. The actual costs will vary between areas and according to the type of work placement.

The National Offender Management Service Specification Benchmarking and Costing Programme, has produced a service specification for unpaid work/Community Payback based on an assumed operating model. This will enable more accurate calculations of costs and is currently being employed by probation areas and directors of Offender Management to assess Community Payback as part of a best value exercise.

The service specification for unpaid work/Community Payback calculates the cost of commencement, including risk assessment and offender induction during the first two hours of the sentence at £82.40. For an offender attending a weekday work group in an urban area, the ongoing cost is calculated to be £8.83 an hour. The cost of a 160 hour sentence is therefore £1,477.54 and the cost of a 240 hour sentence is £2,183.94. These calculations do not include indirect costs such as premises, which will vary between probation areas. The hourly cost of Community Payback work at agency placements, where supervision is undertaken by the organisation benefiting from the work is less costly, while operating work groups at weekends and in remote locations is proportionally more costly.

Young Offenders

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offenders in each youth offending team area have been remanded in custody in each of the last six months. [317533]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the number of young people in each youth offending team area have been remanded in custody in each of the six months July-December 2009. Separate figures are given for young people remanded pending and during trial, those committed for sentencing and young people remanded to the care of a local authority with a secure requirement.

The data, which will be placed in the Library, have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board and have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time. Differences in counting rules may mean that figures from other databases are not directly comparable.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many modern apprenticeships were started in Salford in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008-09. [317383]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts in Salford parliamentary constituency, Eccles parliamentary constituency, Worsley parliamentary constituency and Salford local authority from academic year 2003/04 onwards, the earliest year for which comparable data are available. Salford is made up of Salford and Eccles parliamentary constituencies and part of Worsley parliamentary constituency.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts for Salford parliamentary constituency and Salford local authority, 2003/04 to 2008/09

	2003/04	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*
Salford parliamentary constituency	330	340	310	340	310	340
Eccles parliamentary constituency	530	570	530	520	540	580
Worsley parliamentary constituency	530	450	450	420	510	450
Salford local authority	1,100	1,200	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,200

Notes:

1. Figures by parliamentary constituency are rounded to the nearest 10. Figures for Salford local authority are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures are based upon home postcode of the learner.
3. Figures include Apprenticeships, Advanced Apprenticeships and Higher Level Apprenticeships.
4. Salford is made up of Salford and Eccles parliamentary constituencies and part of Worsley parliamentary constituency.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts by parliamentary constituency, local authority, Government office region and for England is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 17 December, and reissued on 21 January to include provisional national estimates of the number of apprenticeship starts and achievements in the first quarter of 2009/10:

http://www thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrdec09

Departmental Energy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the estimated *(a)* amount and *(b)* cost was of energy used in his Department and its agencies in each year since it was established; what proportion of the energy used was generated from renewable sources in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [317238]

Mr. McFadden: Since the establishment of this Department in June 2009 and up to the end of December 2009, energy usage and costs on our core estate were as follows:

	Amount used (KWh)	*Costs (£000)*
Electricity	6,835,697	824.9
Gas	2,055,014	58.2

Note:
Costs are inclusive of VAT which is not reclaimable.

During this period, 76.9 per cent. of our energy was generated from renewable sources.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond directly to the hon. Member.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 22 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 9 February 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking about the estimated amount and cost of energy used in the Department and its agencies in each year since it was established and the proportion of the energy used which was generated from renewable sources in each of those years.

Our records on both the amount and cost of energy usage are based on Financial Years. The National Measurement Office was created on 1st April 2009 when the National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML) merged with the unit in the then Department for Innovation, Universities & Skills which was responsible for the National Measurement System and that unit relocated to the NWML building in Teddington. Therefore we have information only with respect to the NWML building prior to the merger.

Over the five years to April 2009, the amount of energy used by NWML at Teddington, expressed as KWh, was:

	Electricity	*Gas*
2004-05	[1]—	799.277
2005-06	[2]113,809	763.356
2006-07	674,357	692,751
2007-08	630,412	710.582
2008-09	619,181	744.977

[1] No reliable figures available.
[2] Part year.

Over the last five years our records indicate that the cost of energy to NWML at Teddington was:

£

	Electricity	*Gas*
2004-05	55,779.38	17,551.23
2005-06	66,796.09	26,730.70
2006-07	10,156.98	23,993.23
2007-08	40,963.17	23,579.51
2008-09	41,396.33	29,409.96

Electricity is supplied via a National Physical Laboratory (NPL) contract. Sub-metering to allow an accurate recharge of electricity costs was introduced in February 2006. The low expenditure figure in 2006-07 reflects the application of 'credits' resulting from settlement of a dispute over electricity charges in earlier years.

Gas was supplied and invoiced directly to NWML and that continues to be the case with NMO.

The above costs are inclusive of VAT, any standing charges and climate change levy applied to the invoices.

Under the NPL electricity contract 5 per cent. of the energy is generated from renewable sources.

Letter from Gareth Jones:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 9 February 2010, UIN 317238, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

From June to December 2009, the last month for which figures are available, Companies House has consumed the following amounts of energy:

	Amount (kwh)	*Cost (£)*
Electricity	4,055,664	481,563
Gas	845,403	28,708

Companies House procures green electricity which supports electricity generated from renewable sources under the Government's climate change levy exemption scheme.

Letter from John Alty, dated 16 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 09 February 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Energy usage by the Intellectual Property Office is as follows:

a) 2,800,817 kwh, at a cost of b) £234,000.

This usage was between 1st June 2009 (date of establishment of BIS was 5th June 2009) and 31st December 2009. None of the energy used during this period was from renewable sources.

These figures are a total of the electricity and gas used at the IPO's Concept House and Nine Mile Point sites in South Wales. They exclude the IPO's Bloomsbury Street offices in London where the IPO is billed as part of a maintenance charge.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 17 February 2010:

The Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question (2009/1312) asking what was the estimated amount and cost of energy used, and what proportion of that energy was generated from renewable sources, for each year since The Insolvency Service was established.

Following guidance issued to Departments about this question, the table below gives information for the last five years. We are unable to provide data before that time.

	Renewable (Kwh)	*Electricity (Kwh)*	*Electricity cost (£)*	*Gas Kwh*	*Gas cost (£)*
2004-05	—	2,722,806	228,935	610,187	15,886
2005-06	—	2,777,875	330,981	565,826	18,952
2006-07	—	2,770,868	435,769	389,574	29,172
2007-08	—	2,892,755	453,676	471,518	43,314
2008-09	[1]-6,172	2,336,081	611,936	659,159	12,591

[1] The figure for renewable energy derives from a photovoltaic roof at our largest building.

Prior to the current year, The Insolvency Service was tied to contracts that did not include the supply of energy from renewable sources. We have now entered into a contract for our largest office which will include 10 per cent. renewable energy for the first year of the contract, with incremental increases thereafter. It is our intention to add further offices to this contract when other existing leases come to an end. It should also be noted that the data supplied in the table above applies to those buildings (approximately 25 per cent. of the estate) where we are billed for energy directly. Those offices where utilities are met through the landlord's service charge are not included.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* year-end and *(b)* in-year bonuses were paid to officials in his Department and its predecessor in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in such bonuses in each such year. [307098]

Mr. McFadden: An element of the BIS overall pay award for staff below the SCS is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award. There are two types of award: in-year bonuses, which consist of special individual performance awards and non-pay rewards that recognise strong performance in particularly demanding tasks for situations. Staff in receipt of a special bonus may also receive an annual performance award. Annual performance awards are paid to members of staff who receive a highly successful performance rating.

Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs.

Performance awards for the SCS are part of the pay system across the whole senior civil service, and are used to reward high performance sustained throughout the year, based on judgments of how well an individual has performed relative to their peers. The performance related pay scheme is designed to help drive high performance and support better public service delivery. Performance awards are non-consolidated and non-pensionable. The percentage of the pay bill set aside for performance-related awards for the SCS is based on recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

BIS was formed through a machinery of government change that occurred in June 2009. The Department was created by merging The Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). DIUS and BERR were themselves created as part of a machinery of government change in June 2007. This means that BIS in its current format did not exist to award performance awards in any of the previous three years.

The information in the following table has been drawn from various data sources and provides details for both of the former Departments that were merged to create BIS.

Department	*Financial year*	*Number of staff who received "in year awards"*	*Total value of "in year rewards" (£)*	*Number of staff awarded end of year performance awards*	*Total value of end of year performance awards (£)*	*Total value of awards (£)*
BERR	2006-07	919	491,669	1,286	2,532,180	3,023,849
	2007-08	1,238	693,386	1,065	2,265,502	2,958,888
	2008-09	1,218	586,631	971	2,240,592	2,827,223
DIUS	2006-07[1]	—	—	—	—	—
	2007-08	273	21,125	24	185,916	207,041
	2008-09	201	13,855	213	459,171	473,026

[1] DIUS was not created until 2007

Notes:

1. DIUS was created by a MOG change that occurred in June 2007 and did not exist before this date. The majority of annual performance awards paid to staff in 2007-08 were issued by the Departments that staff had transferred from.
2. In all three years the total value of the performance awards paid was approximately 1.5 per cent. of the total Department's pay bill.

Departmental Travel

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much each of his Department's *(a)* non-departmental public bodies and *(b)* research councils spent on (i) first-class air travel, (ii) first class rail travel, (iii) taxis, (iv) hotel accommodation and (v) other travel and overnight subsistence expenses in each of the last three years. [313293]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not hold information on its NDPBs' (which includes the Research Councils) travel and subsistence expenses centrally and such information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Exports: Saudi Arabia

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps he has taken to recruit staff with direct experience of commercial exports to UK Trade and Investment to work on the promotion of exports to Saudi Arabia. [317992]

Ian Lucas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is not an employer in its own right. For the majority of its human resource requirements, it draws on the staff employed by one or other of its two parent departments, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (mainly in the UK) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (mainly overseas).

UKTI staff in Riyadh, Jeddah and Al Khobar, together with those promoting business with Saudi

Arabia in London, are BIS or FCO employees. In addition, locally engaged staff are employed by UKTI in Saudi Arabia, many of whom come from a commercial background, to assist UK firms access the opportunities available in the market. UKTI has also appointed two specialists from the private sector to help British companies to win business stemming from the Saudi Arabian Government's fiscal stimulus programme.

London Metropolitan University

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the financial situation of London Metropolitan University; and what his estimate is of likely *(a)* student and *(b)* staff numbers in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [318018]

Mr. Lammy: Assessments of the financial situation of individual institutions are a matter for the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the individual institutions.

Final student and staff numbers for 2009-10 will not be available until these are collected at the end of the academic year by the Higher Education Statistics Agency. HEFCE is discussing with the university, as it does with all institutions, its future plans for student and staff numbers as part of its arrangements for monitoring the financial position of the university.

Maternity Leave

Annette Brooke: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average length of maternity leave taken by women was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [317190]

Mr. McFadden: From April 2007 all employed mothers are entitled to 52 weeks maternity leave, of which 39 may be paid. Employers are not required to record or report the uptake of maternity leave to the Government.

The most recent estimates of take-up of maternity leave are based on the DWP 'Maternity Rights and Mothers' employment decisions in Britain: Survey of Mothers' (2007). In 2006, when the mothers included in the study went on maternity leave, the statutory entitlement to ordinary maternity leave (OML) was 26 weeks, while mothers who had worked for their employer for a qualifying period of 26 weeks were also entitled to additional maternity leave (AML) of 26 weeks.

For mothers taking maternity leave in 2006:

84 per cent. took 26 weeks or more maternity leave;

35 per cent. took exactly 26 weeks maternity leave;

46 per cent. of mothers took between 27 and 52 weeks and 3 per cent. were off for more than 52 weeks;

16 per cent. of mothers took less than the statutory minimum entitlement (i.e. 26 weeks in 2006).

The next Maternity Rights survey will be based on mothers who took maternity leave starting in summer 2008. It is due to report later in 2010.

Unemployment: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people under 25 years old were not in employment, education or training in Mid Bedfordshire constituency in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008-09. [318039]

Kevin Brennan: Due to small sample sizes, we are unable to provide estimates of the number of young people not in employment, education or training for parliamentary constituency areas.

The Annual Population survey can provide estimates for local education authorities. The latest Annual Population Survey data available are for 2008. Estimates of people not in employment, education or training are not available prior to 2000 due to data in earlier years being incomplete.

The number of young people not in employment, education or training in England is published by DCSF every quarter. The latest information can be found here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000890/NEETQtrBriefQ32009.pdf

Unemployment: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people aged between 18 and 24 years old and not in employment, education or training there were in Salford constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [317736]

Kevin Brennan: Due to small sample sizes, we are unable to provide estimates of the number of people not in employment, education or training for parliamentary constituency areas.

The Annual Population survey can provide estimates for local education authorities, but not for age groups narrower than 16-24. The latest Annual Population Survey data available are for 2008. Estimates of people not in employment, education or training are not available prior to 2000 due to data in earlier years being incomplete.

The number of young people not in employment, education or training in England is published by DCSF every quarter. The latest information can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000890/NEETQtrBriefQ32009.pdf

Vocational Training: Tax Allowances

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will discuss with the Chancellor of the Exchequer the provision of tax *(a)* discounts or *(b)* credits for those required to pay for their own training. [316639]

Kevin Brennan: It is important that we target investment in education and training as efficiently and effectively as possible. Targeting through the tax system may result in supporting learning that would have taken place in any event.

We believe providing entitlements for every adult to receive training towards a first full level 2 qualification and for young people (up to age 25) to receive training for a first full level 3 qualification is a more efficient way of supporting individuals that otherwise would not have engaged in training. Evidence shows that this training is often more effective when delivered in the work place. This is why we have developed our flagship Train to Gain programme, which, since its inception in 2006 has helped people to start 1.54 million qualifications.

It is also why we are expanding the apprenticeship system to build a new technician class for the higher level jobs of the future, almost doubling the number of advanced and higher apprenticeships places for 19 to 30-year-olds.

Working Hours: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of those resident in Salford constituency have received a reduction in their working hours since the introduction of a maximum length of working week of 48 hours. [317734]

Mr. McFadden: The Working Time Regulations provide workers with the right to refuse to work more than 48 hours on average, if they do not want to. It is not possible to estimate how many residents have received a reduction in their working hours as a result of the introduction of a maximum length of the working week to 48 hours either at the national level or in Salford constituency.

Young People: Unemployment

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of people in *(a)* Lewes constituency and *(b)* England aged (i) between 16 and 18 and (ii) between 19 and 24 years old were not in education, employment or training in each year since 1997. [315767]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of the number and proportion of young people aged 16-18 who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) are published annually in the statistical first release (SFR) "Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 year olds in England". This publication contains the Department's best estimate of the NEET rate and is the official measure used to measure progress against out target to reduce the proportion of young people NEET by 2 percentage points by the end of 2010. The most recent SFR can be accessed via the Department's website here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000849/index.shtml

A time series going back to 1985 is available under "Additional Information".

A comparable measure of NEET for 19-24 year olds is not available. However, the Department publishes "NEET Statistics—Quarterly Brief" which contains an alternative measure of NEET covering 16-24 year olds. The next issue is due for publication on 25 February, 2010 and will be available via this link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000913/index.shtml

Estimates of the proportion of young people NEET are not available at parliamentary constituency level. The smallest geographical area for which estimates are available is local authority. These local estimates are derived from data collected by Connexions services and are published on the DCSF 14-19 website and are only available for 16-18 year olds:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19/index.cfm?go=site.home&sid=42&pid=343&lid=337&ctype=Text&ptype=Single

Connexions local estimates are not directly comparable with the national estimates in the SFR. Figures for West Sussex since 2006, the earliest available, are shown in the following table.

	Percentage of 16-18 year olds NEET in West Sussex
2006	4.5
2007	4.4
2008	5.4

There are no comparable or robust estimates of the proportion of 19-24 year olds NEET available for local authorities.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received from the Charity Commission on the method of achieving charitable status for educational academies and colleges; and what steps he plans to take in response to those representations. [310572]

Mr. Coaker: The Department held discussions with the Charity Commission on the way in which academies are registered as charities. As a result of those discussions, I tabled an amendment at Committee stage to remove a clause in the Children, Schools and Families Bill, which would have made changes to those arrangements. A copy of a letter from the chief executive of the Charity Commission and the Permanent Secretary's advice to the Secretary of State has been placed in the Library.

Blaydon

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Blaydon constituency, the effects on Blaydon of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 2000. [315305]

Mr. Coaker: Since 2000 the Government have transformed education and child care with improved outcomes for children and young people. Figures showing the performance at key stage 2 and at GCSE and equivalents in Blaydon are given in the following tables.

Key stage 2 results of 11-year-old pupils attending schools¹ in Blaydon constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining level 4 and above	*2000*	*2009²*	*Percentage point improvement 2000-09*
Blaydon—English	82	86	4
Blaydon—maths	79	87	8
Blaydon—science	90	93	3
England—English³	75	80	5

Key stage 2 results of 11-year-old pupils attending schools[1] in Blaydon constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining level 4 and above	*2000*	*2009[2]*	*Percentage point improvement 2000-09*
England—maths[3]	72	79	7
England—science[3]	85	88	3

[1] Local averages include pupils attending all maintained schools (including academies and city technology colleges).

[2] Revised data.

[3] England averages include pupils attending all maintained schools (including academies and city technology colleges).

GCSE and equivalent[1] results for pupils[2] attending schools[3] in Blaydon constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining	*2000*	*2009[4]*	*Percentage point improvement 2000-09*
Blaydon—5+ A*-C	55.8	86.0	30.2
Blaydon—5+ A*-G	92.1	96.5	4.4
England—5+ A*-C[5]	49.2	70.0	20.8
England—5+ A*-G[5]	88.9	92.3	3.4

[1] From 2004 results incorporate GCSEs, GNVQs and a range of other qualifications approved pre-16. Prior to 2004, results are based on GCSEs and GNVQs only.

[2] From 2006 figures are for pupils at the end of key stage 4. Prior to 2006, results are based on pupils aged 15.

[3] Local averages include pupils attending all maintained schools (including academies and city technology colleges) and from 2000 do not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.

[4] Revised data.

[5] England averages also include independent schools as well as hospital schools and PRUs.

Further information by constituency is provided within the Department's 'In Your Area' website available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/inyourarea

Information available at constituency level includes the number of specialist schools, number of operational academies, number of teaching assistants and other support staff, number of teachers and pupil: teacher ratios. Where information is not available at constituency level it has been provided at local authority level including the number of free early education places taken up by three and four-year-olds, number of full-time and part-time entrants to higher education institutions aged 18 to 20, average A-level point score per candidate and per entry together with percentage of people of working age qualified to at least level 2 and percentage of people of working age qualified to level 4 and above.

Additional information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Children: Day Care

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* free nursery and *(b)* pre-school places were available for (i) three and (ii) four year olds in Feltham and Heston constituency in each year since 1997. [316683]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows the number of part-time equivalent places filled by three and four year olds in Feltham and Heston constituency from 2004 to 2009.

The Department publishes information on the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds in maintained, private, voluntary and independent providers. Information on the number of pre-school places is not separately available. Part-time equivalent places are derived by counting children taking up 12 and a half hours per week as one place, 10 hours per week as 0.8 places, seven and a half hours per week as 0.6 places, five hours per week as 0.4 places and two and a half hours per week as 0.2 places. Data at parliamentary constituency level are not available prior to 2004.

Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1, 2, 3] filled by three and four-year-olds[4]: Parliamentary constituency Feltham and Heston, position in January each year

	Three-year-olds	*Four-year-olds*
2004	970	1,400
2005	990	1,300
2006	1,100	1,400
2007	1,100	1,400
2008	1,200	1,400
2009	1,300	1,600

[1] A place is equal to 12.5 hours (five sessions) and can be filled by more than one child.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.

[3] Prior to 2004, information on early education places was derived from returns made by local authorities as part of the Nursery Education Grant (NEG) data collection exercise. These data were collected at local authority level, therefore, data for this parliamentary constituency are not available prior to 2004.

[4] Age of all children taken at 31 December in the previous calendar year.

Source:

Early Years Census and School Census

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 11/2009 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2009", available on my Department's website

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000848/index.shtml

Children: Social Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has had recent discussions with Gloucestershire county council on its provision of children's services and children's centres. [316054]

Dawn Primarolo: As part of its role to both provide challenge and support the Government Office for the South West meets the local authority regularly to discuss children's services.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families' delivery partner supporting the development of Sure Start Children's Centres, Together for Children, regularly liaises with the local authority regarding its children's centres programme.

The Secretary of State wrote to Gloucestershire local authority on 19 November 2009 regarding the local authority's National Challenge Progress Review.

Children's Centres: Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in Feltham and Heston constituency attend Sure Start centres. [316668]

Dawn Primarolo: The eight designated Sure Start Children's Centres in Feltham and Heston constituency have a combined reach area of over 6,000 children under five and their families. Reach area defines those children and families with the opportunity to access children's centres. Figures for the number of children under five and their families actually attending and using children's centres are not collected centrally.

Classroom Assistants: Lewes

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent teaching assistants there were in schools in Lewes constituency *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [315769]

Mr. Coaker: In January 1997 there were 60 full-time equivalent teaching assistants in service in local authority maintained schools, city technology colleges and academies in Lewes constituency and 210 in January 2009. The data source is the School Census and the figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 311W, on Google Adword online advertising keywords, for which Google Adword online advertising keywords his Department has paid in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [315279]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information cannot be supplied without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many job vacancies in his Department and its agencies were filled through external recruitment in the last year for which figures are available. [315288]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: In the last financial year (2008-09), there were 88 people recruited externally into the DCSF.

The Department has no agencies.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days since its inception. [316469]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Since the inception of the Department for Children, Schools and Families on 28 June 2007, 176 staff have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days. This applies from the date of establishment of the Department to 31 January 2010 (the latest information available).

Education Maintenance Allowance: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people have received the educational maintenance allowance in Hemsworth constituency since its introduction. [316713]

Mr. Iain Wright: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Geoff Russell the LSC's acting chief executive, will write to my hon. Friend from Hemsworth with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Families: Government Assistance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which departments he expects to contribute funds to the Think Family grant in 2010-11; and how much each department will contribute. [315727]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 5 February 2010]*: The Think Family Grant for is made up of contributions from DCSF, HO, DH and DCLG. The contributions from individual Departments and associated activity costs in 2010-11 are as follows:

	£ million
Department of Health	2.85
Communities and Local Government	2.5
Home Office	10
Department for Children, Schools and Families	79.8

Contributions are also made at the local level as match funding or in-kind services. Information on this is not held centrally.

Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Feltham and Heston constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997; [316679]

(2) how many 14 year olds in schools in Feltham and Heston constituency obtained level 5 or above in key stage 3 results in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009; [316680]

(3) how many 11 year olds in schools in Feltham and Heston constituency obtained level 4 or above in key stage 2 results in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009; [316681]

(4) how many pupils in schools in Feltham and Heston constituency gained five A* to C GCSEs or equivalent in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [316687]

Mr. Coaker: Since 1997 the Government have transformed education and child care with improved outcomes for children and young people. Figures showing the performance at key stage 2, key stage 3 and at GCSE and equivalents in Feltham and Heston are given in the following tables:

Key stage 2 results of 11 year old pupils attending schools in the Feltham and Heston constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining level 4 and above[1]	*1997*	*2009*[2]	*Percentage point improvement 1997 to 2009*
Feltham and Heston—English	53	77	24
Feltham and Heston—maths	47	76	29
Feltham and Heston—science	59	87	28

Key stage 2 results of 11 year old pupils attending schools in the Feltham and Heston constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining level 4 and above[1]	*1997*	*2009*[2]	*Percentage point improvement 1997 to 2009*
England—English	63	80	17
England—maths	62	79	17
England—science	68	88	20

[1] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including Academies and City Technology Colleges).

[2] Revised data.

Source:

School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables

Key stage 3 results of 14 year old pupils attending schools in the Feltham and Heston constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining level 5 and above[1]	*1997*	*2008*[2]	*Percentage point improvement 1997 to 2008*
Feltham and Heston—English	39	63	24
Feltham and Heston—maths	40	67	27
Feltham and Heston—science	38	57	19
England—English	57	74	17
England—maths	60	77	17
England—science	60	72	12

[1] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including Academies and City Technology Colleges).

[2] Key stage 3 tests were discontinued after 2008.

Source:

School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables and National Pupil Database

GCSE and equivalents[1] *results for pupils*[2] *attending schools*[3] *in the Feltham and Heston constituency*

Percentage of pupils gaining	*1997*	*2009*[5]	*Percentage point improvement 1997 to 2009*
Feltham and Heston—5+ A*-C	27.1	72.7	45.6
Feltham and Heston—5+ A*-G	77.6	93.7	16.1
England—5+ A*-C[4]	45.1	70.0	24.9
England—5+ A*-G[4]	86.4	92.3	5.9

[1] From 2004 results incorporate GCSEs, GNVQs and a range of other qualifications approved pre-16. Prior to 2004 results are based on GCSEs and GNVQs only.

[2] From 2006 figures are for pupils at the end of key stage 4. Prior to 2006 results are based on pupils aged 15.

[3] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including Academies and City Technology Colleges) and from 2000 does not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.

[4] England figures also include independent schools as well as hospital schools and PRUs.

[5] Revised data.

Source:

School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables

Further information by constituency is available on the Department's "In Your Area" website:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/inyourarea

The information available at constituency level includes the number of specialist schools, number of operational Academies, number of teaching assistants and other support staff, number of teachers and pupil:teacher ratios. Where information is not available at constituency level it has been provided at local authority level including the number of free early education places taken up by three and four year olds, number full-time and part-time entrants to higher education institutions aged 18 to 20, average A level point score per candidate and per entry together with percentage of people of working age qualified to at least level 2 and percentage of people of working age qualified to level 4 and above.

Additional information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

GCSE

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in *(a)* comprehensive and *(b)* maintained schools who achieved at least five grades A* to C at GCSE achieved (i) one or more, (ii) more than one, (iii) more than two, (iv) more than three of those grades in the subjects of business studies, music technology, child development, hairdressing, construction, health and social care, sociology, media, travel and tourism, performing arts, and hospitality and catering, in each year since 1997; [314463]

(2) what percentage of pupils from current National Challenge schools who achieved at least five grades A* to C at GCSE achieved *(a)* one or more, *(b)* more than one, *(c)* more than two, *(d)* more than three of those grades in the subject of business studies, music technology, child development, hairdressing, construction, health and social care, sociology, media, travel and tourism, performing arts, and hospitality and catering, in each of the last five years. [314464]

Mr. Coaker: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in *(a)* comprehensive and *(b)* independent schools were entered for GCSEs in (i) English literature, (ii) physics, (iii) chemistry, (iv) biology, (v) history and (vi) a foreign language in 2009. [315622]

Mr. Coaker: The information required is given in the following table:

Number of pupils entered for GCSEs in selected subjects in comprehensive and independent schools in 2009

Selected subject	*Comprehensive school*	*Independent school*
English Literature	405,303	36,839
Physics	53,532	15,028
Chemistry	53,654	15,671
Biological Sciences	56,884	16,435
History	155,610	23,248
A Modern Foreign Language	211,689	39,225

Source:

Achievement and Attainment Tables

The data relate to pupils at the end of key stage 4.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students resident in *(a)* Knowsley, *(b)* Sandwell, *(c)* Lambeth and *(d)* England achieved (i) five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics, excluding equivalents, (ii) at least one grade C at GCSE, excluding equivalents and (iii) three A grades at A-level (A) in 1997 and (B) in the most recent year for which figures are available. [316867]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested for the academic years 2004/05 and 2008/09 for GCSEs and for the academic years 2005/06 and 2008/09 for A Levels is in the following tables.

Previous years' data can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

GCSE achievements of students[1] resident in Knowsley, Sandwell and Lambeth local authorities[2] and England[3] at the end of key stage 4[4], 2004/05 and 2008/09

		Total number of students	Percentage who achieved five or more GCSEs including English and mathematics at grade A*-C excluding equivalents	Percentage who achieved at least one GCSE pass at grade C or above excluding equivalents
2004/05	Knowsley	2,314	28.3	66.9
	Sandwell	3,915	29.3	64.9
	Lambeth	2,257	33.6	74.0
	England[3]	583,930	41.7	75.3
2008/09	Knowsley	2,066	35.9	70.9
	Sandwell	3,901	34.7	71.8
	Lambeth	2,217	45.8	83.7
	England[3]	578,629	47.8	80.1

[1] Students attending maintained schools only including City Technology colleges and academies.

[2] Excludes students whose area of residency is unknown due to missing or invalid postcode information.

[3] England figure includes students known to be resident in England or with a missing or invalid postcode.

[4] Based on students at the end of key stage 4 in the relevant academic year.

Source:

National Pupil Database (2004/05 final data, 2008/09 amended data)

A Level achievements of students[1, 2] resident in Knowsley, Sandwell and Lambeth local authorities[3] and England[4], 2005/06 and 2008/09

		Total number of students	Percentage who achieved three A grades at A Level[5]
2005/06	Knowsley	259	5.0
	Sandwell	547	4.4
	Lambeth	396	8.3
	England[4]	140,742	8.9
2008/09	Knowsley	272	5.5
	Sandwell	707	4.8
	Lambeth	438	7.8
	England[4]	146,150	10.5

[1] 16-18 year old candidates entered for GCE/Applied GCE A Levels and Double Awards in 2008/09 and GCE/VCE A Level and VCE Double Awards in 2005/06.

[2] Students attending maintained schools only including City Technology colleges and academies.

[3] Excludes students whose area of residency is unknown due to missing or invalid postcode information.

[4] England figure includes students known to be resident in England or with a missing or invalid postcode.

[5] Includes GCE/Applied GCE A Level and Double Awards in 2008/09 and GCEA/CE A Level and VCE Double Awards in 2005/06.

Source:

National Pupil Database (2005/06 final data, 2008/09 amended data)

GCSE: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of children in Salford schools obtained five GCSEs at grades A* to C in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009; [311671]

(2) what percentage of pupils in Salford obtained five A* to C grades at GCSE in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [317387]

Mr. Coaker: Of all 15-year-old pupils in maintained schools in Salford, 30.7 per cent. achieved five or more GCSE/GNVQs at grades A*-C in 1997.

Of all pupils at the end of KS4 in maintained schools in Salford, 73.4 per cent. achieved five or more GCSE or equivalents at grades A*-C in 2009.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in Salford obtained five A* to C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [317386]

Mr. Coaker: Of all 15-year-old pupils in maintained schools in Salford, 20.1 per cent. of pupils achieved five or more GCSE/GNVQ at grades A*-C including English and mathematics in 1997.

Of all pupils at the end of KS4 in maintained schools in Salford, 45.8 per cent. of pupils achieved five or more GCSE or equivalents at grades A* -C including English and mathematics in 2009.

Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Hemsworth constituency, the effects on Hemsworth of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [316308]

Mr. Coaker: Since 2000 the Government have transformed education and child care with improved outcomes for children and young people. Figures showing the performance at Key Stage 2 and at GCSE and equivalents in Hemsworth are given in the following tables:

Key Stage 2 results of 11-year-old pupils attending schools in the Hemsworth constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining Level 4 and above[1]	2000	2009[2]	Percentage point improvement 2000-09
Hemsworth			
English	57	74	17
Maths	63	75	12

Key Stage 2 results of 11-year-old pupils attending schools in the Hemsworth constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining Level 4 and above[1]	*2000*	*2009*[2]	*Percentage point improvement 2000-09*
Science	60	73	13
England			
English	75	80	5
Maths	72	79	7
Science	85	88	3

[1] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools including Academies and City Technology Colleges.
[2] Revised data.
Source:
School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables.

GCSE and equivalents[1] results for pupils[2] attending schools[3] in the Hemsworth constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining	*2000*	*2009*[4]	*Percentage point improvement 2000-09*
Hemsworth			
5+ A*-C	46.3	74.6	28.3
5+ A*-G	93.4	93.0	-0.4
England			
5+ A*-C[5]	49.2	70.0	20.8
5+ A*-G[5]	88.9	92.3	3.4

[1] From 2004 results incorporate GCSEs, GNVQs and a range of other qualifications approved pre-16. Prior to 2004 results are based on GCSEs and GNVQs only.
[2] From 2006 figures are for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. Prior to 2006 results are based on pupils aged 15.
[3] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including academies and city technology colleges) and from 2000 does not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.
[4] Revised data.
[5] England figures also include independent schools as well as hospital schools and PRUs.
Source:
School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables

Further information by constituency is provided within the Department's 'In Your Area' website available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/inyourarea

Information available at constituency level includes the number of specialist schools, number of operational academies, number of teaching assistants and other support staff, number of teachers and pupil:teacher ratios. Where information is not available at constituency level it has been provided at local authority level including the number of free early education places taken up by three and four-year-olds, number full-time and part-time entrants to higher education institutions aged 18 to 20, average A-level point score per candidate and per entry together with percentage of people of working age qualified to at least Level 2 and percentage of people of working age qualified to Level 4 and above.

Additional information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Learning Disability: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children resident in the Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency have been diagnosed with a learning disability in each year since 2003. [312200]

Mr. Coaker: Information about pupils' type of Special Educational Need was first collected in the School Census in 2004. Of the 12 types of need identified four specifically mention learning difficulties and are listed in the following table.

Number of resident pupils[1, 2] with learning difficulties

	Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath					
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Moderate Learning Difficulty	1,230	1,290	1,160	1,250	1,500	1,600
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty	10	10	10	20	40	40
Severe Learning Difficulty	150	150	150	140	120	130
Specific Learning Difficulty	170	170	190	190	160	160
Total	1,550	1,620	1,510	1,600	1,820	1,920

[1] Information on primary need is only collected for pupils at School Action Plus and those with a statement of SEN.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Milton Keynes, the effects on Milton Keynes of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [316043]

Mr. Coaker: Since 1997 the Government have transformed education and child care with improved outcomes for children and young people. Figures showing the performance at key stage 2 and at GCSE and equivalents in North-East Milton Keynes are given in the following tables:

Key stage 2 results of 11 year old pupils attending schools in the North-East Milton Keynes constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining level 4 and above[1]	*1997*	*2009*[2]	*Percentage point improvement 1997 to 2009*
North-East Milton Keynes			
English	65	80	15
Maths	60	78	18
Science	71	88	17
England			
English	63	80	17
Maths	62	79	17
Science	68	88	20

[1] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including Academies and City Technology Colleges).
[2] Revised data.
Source:
School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables

GCSE and equivalents[1] results for pupils[2] attending schools[3] in the North-East Milton Keynes constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining	*1997*	*2009*[5]	*Percentage point improvement 1997 to 2009*
North-East Milton Keynes			
5+ A*-C	48.2	69.5	21.3
5+ A*-G	93.6	96.5	2.9
England			
5+ A*-C[6]	45.1	70.0	24.9

GCSE and equivalents[1] results for pupils[2] attending schools[3] in the North-East Milton Keynes constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining:	*1997*	*2009[5]*	*Percentage point improvement 1997 to 2009*
5+ A*-G[4]	86.4	92.3	5.9

[1] From 2004 results incorporate GCSEs, GNVQs and a range of other qualifications approved pre-16. Prior to 2004 results are based on GCSEs and GNVQs only.
[2] From 2006 figures are for pupils at the end of key stage 4. Prior to 2006 results are based on pupils aged 15.
[3] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including Academies and City Technology Colleges) and from 2000 does not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.
[4] England figures also include independent schools as well as hospital schools and PRUs.
[5] Revised data.
Source:
School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables

Further information by constituency is provided within the Department's 'In Your Area' website available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/inyourarea

Information available at constituency level includes the number of specialist schools, number of operational Academies, number of teaching assistants and other support staff, number of teachers and pupil: teacher ratios. Where information is not available at constituency level it has been provided at local authority level including the number of free early education places taken up by three and four-year-olds, number full-time and part-time entrants to higher education institutions aged 18 to 20, average A level point score per candidate and per entry together with percentage of people of working age qualified to at least Level 2 and percentage of people of working age qualified to Level 4 and above.

Additional information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies: Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which non-departmental public bodies have received funding from his Department in each year since its inception; and how much was paid to each in each such year. [316554]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 9 February 2010]:* The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) was created on 28 June 2007. The following table shows the amounts paid to the Department's non-departmental public bodies as grant in aid for financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09. This information is drawn from the Department's published resource accounts. Information for 2009-10 will not be available until the resource accounts are published in July.

Grant in aid to non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs)

£000

	2008-09	*2007-08*
British Educational Communications and Technology Agency(BECTA)	61,285	37,172
Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)	113,874	106,450
Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC)[1]	71,931	—
National College for School Leadership (NCSL)	107,643	83,305
Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) (also known as 11 Million)	2,907	2,663
Partnerships for Schools (PfS)	9,292	6,931
Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA)	143,890	157,369
School Food Trust (SFT)	10,666	7,738
Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA)	738,222	777,313
Payment to DIUS for DCSF programmes delivered by the LSC[2]	7,384,652	7,052,258
Grant in aid	8,644,362	8,231,199

[1] The Children's Workforce Development Council became an NDPB from 1 April 2008.
[2] The Department for Innovation and Skills (DIUS) has now become the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is an NDPB funded jointly by BIS and DCSF.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it a requirement that emergency life support skills are included in the compulsory Personal, Health, Social and Economic curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [315702]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Children and young people already learn about emergency life support skills as part of Personal Social Health and Economic (PSHE) education. They learn about where and how to obtain health information, how to recognise and follow health and safety procedures, ways of reducing risk and minimising harm in risky situations, how to find sources of emergency help and how to use basic and emergency first aid.

Basic and emergency aid will continue to be part of statutory PSHE when it is introduced in schools in September 2011.

Pupil Exclusions: Suffolk

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been permanently excluded from *(a)* primary, *(b)* middle, *(c)* upper and *(d)* secondary schools in Suffolk in each year since 1997. [314870]

Mr. Coaker: The available information requested is shown in the table.

From 2002, the Department has carried out a checking exercise to confirm the overall number of permanent exclusions. However, this only confirms the number of exclusions in each local authority area and not at school level. Therefore information for middle and upper schools are not separately identifiable.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: Number of pupil enrolments[2] with permanent exclusions, 1996/97 to 2007/08, Suffolk local authority

	Primary[1]		*State-funded secondary schools[1, 3]*	
	Number of permanent exclusions	*Percentage of the school population[4]*	*Number of permanent exclusions*	*Percentage of the school population[4]*
1996/97	10	0.03	100	0.20
1998/99	10	0.03	100	0.21
1997/98	20	0.04	110	0.21
1999/2000	20	0.05	80	0.15

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: Number of pupil enrolments[2] with permanent exclusions, 1996/97 to 2007/08, Suffolk local authority

	Primary[1]		*State-funded secondary schools[1, 3]*	
	Number of permanent exclusions	*Percentage of the school population[4]*	*Number of permanent exclusions*	*Percentage of the school population[4]*
2000/01	10	0.03	130	0.25
2001/02	30	0.05	140	0.25
2002/03[5]	20	0.05	130	0.23
2003/04[5]	30	0.07	160	0.30
2004/05[5]	20	0.04	130	0.23
2005/06[5]	10	0.02	80	0.14
2006/07[5]	10	0.01	60	0.11
2007/08[5]	10	0.01	80	0.15

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed (upper schools are included in state-funded secondary schools).

[2] Pupils may be counted more than once if they were registered at more than one school or moved schools during the school year.

[3] State-funded secondary schools include maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies. Suffolk local authority has no city technology colleges or academies.

[4] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January each year for the relevant school type.

[5] Estimates based on local authority figures following a checking exercise to confirm the overall number of permanent exclusions in each local authority.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Termly Exclusions Survey and School Census

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent per child on *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Greater London and (ii) Romford in the latest period for which figures are available. [315936]

Mr. Coaker: The Department allocates education funding to local authorities so the requested information for Greater London and Romford constituency is not available. The available information on how much was spent per child in primary and secondary schools in Havering and Greater London is shown in the following table:

	2008-09	
	Primary education	*Secondary education*
England	3,780	4,890
Greater London	4,470	5,820
Havering	3,645	5,144

Notes:

1. School based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure.
2. The calculation for 2002-03 onwards is broadly similar to the calculation in previous years. However, 2001-02 and earlier years includes all premature retirement compensation (PRC) and Crombie payments, mandatory PRC payments and other indirect employee expenses. In 2001-02 this accounted for approximately £70 per pupil. From 2002-03 onwards only the schools element of these categories is included and this accounted for approximately £50 per pupil of the 2002-03 total. Also, for some LAs, expenditure that had previously been attributed to the school sectors was reported within the LA part of the form from 2002-03, though this is not quantifiable from existing sources.
3. Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending maintained establishments within each sector and are drawn from the DfES Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10 and are in Cash Terms.

Sandwell

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to the borough of Sandwell, the effects on that borough of changes to the policies of his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [316473]

Mr. Coaker: Since 1997 the Government have transformed education and child care with improved outcomes for children and young people. Figures showing the performance at Key Stage 2 and at GCSE and equivalents in Sandwell local authority are given in the following tables:

Key Stage 2 results of 11-year-old pupils attending schools in the Sandwell local authority

Percentage of pupils gaining level 4 and above[1]	*1997*	*2009[2]*	*Percentage point improvement 1997 to 2009*
Sandwell LA			
English	52	76	24
Maths	46	75	29
Science	51	85	34
England			
English	63	80	17
Maths	62	79	17
Science	68	88	20

[1] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including Academies and City Technology Colleges).

[2] Revised data.

Source:

School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables

GCSE and equivalents[1] results for pupils[2] attending schools[3] in the Sandwell local authority

Percentage of pupils gaining	*1997*	*2009[4]*	*Percentage point improvement 1997 to 2009*
Sandwell LA			
5+ A*-C	26.9	66.1	39.2
5+ A*-G	80.2	90.7	10.5
England			
5+ A*-C[5]	45.1	70.0	24.9
5+ A*-G[5]	86.4	92.3	5.9

[1] From 2004 results incorporate GCSEs, GNVQs and a range of other qualifications approved pre-16. Prior to 2004 results are based on GCSEs and GNVQs only.

[2] From 2006 figures are for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. Prior to 2006 results are based on pupils aged 15.

[3] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including Academies and City Technology Colleges) and from 2000 does not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.

[4] Revised data.

[5] England figures also include independent schools as well as hospital schools and PRUs.

Source:

School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables

Other relevant statistical evidence relating to Sandwell local authority includes:

"Infant Class sizes"—the number of children at Key Stage 1 (including reception) in primary schools, taught by one teacher in classes over 30 has fallen from 4,423 in 1997 to 62 in 2009.

"School workforce"—an extra 750 teaching assistants and 1,430 more support staff than in 1997.

"Early education places"—the number of free part-time early education places taken up by three and four-year-olds in maintained, private, voluntary and independent providers has risen from 7,025 in 1997 to 7,465 in 2009.

Further information about Sandwell local authority is available on the Department's In Your Area website available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/inyourarea

and also on the Department's research and statistics website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/

Additional information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Schools: Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent repairing schools in Feltham and Heston constituency in each year since 1997. [316695]

Mr. Coaker: Figures are not available for the parliamentary constituency of Feltham and Heston as data are collected at a local authority level.

Repairs to capital assets which bring them back to their original state are classified as a revenue cost, for which capital allocations cannot be used. Expenditure on capital assets which improves them further, including additions, is classified as a capital cost for which capital or revenue allocations can be used.

The available information on how much has been spent repairing schools in Hounslow local authority is shown in the following table:

School based expenditure on repair and maintenance of buildings in Hounslow local authority from 1999-2000 to 2008-09

		£
	Hounslow	*England*
1999-2000	2,706,000	631,994,000
2000-01	2,934,000	670,942,000
2001-02	3,695,000	729,882,000
2002-03	4,129,000	503,199,000
2003-04	3,138,000	501,233,000
2004-05	3,198,000	550,301,000
2005-06	3,921,000	608,386,000
2006-07	3,959,000	645,680,000
2007-08	5,115,000	731,938,000
2008-09	5,067,000	738,599,000

Notes:

1. Financial information used in this answer are taken from the DCSF section 52 collection.

2. All expenditure on non-capital building works, including repairs and maintenance of buildings, and non-capital expenditure on fixed plant and grounds.

3. Building maintenance and improvement, including: Charges by contractors for internal and external repair, maintenance and improvement to buildings and fixed plant including costs of labour and materials; Related professional and technical services, including labour costs where supplied as part of the contract/service; Costs of materials and equipment used by directly employed staff for internal and external repair, maintenance and improvement to buildings and fixed plant; Fixtures and fittings e.g. carpet, curtains, etc.

4. Figures rounded to nearest £1,000. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 8 February 2010.

Capital allocations to Hounslow local authority for each year since 1997-98, which includes Feltham and Heston, are set out in the following table:

	£ million
1997-98	3.8
1998-99	4.6
1999-2000	4.0
2000-01	7.1
2001-02	6.2
2002-03	9.7
2003-04	38.7
2004-05	11.9
2005-06	10.7
2006-07	12.0
2007-08	14.6
2008-09	16.9
2009-10	30.3
2010-11	22.3

Notes:

1. The allocations in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 includes £2.5 million, £3.5 million and £8.5 million respectively, which form part of the £20 million re-development of Heston School.

2. The allocations in 2009-10 and 2010-11 include £3.5 million and £8.5 million respectively for the new Primary Capital programme.

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much per pupil has been spent on schools in Feltham and Heston constituency in each year since 1997. [316697]

Mr. Coaker: Figures are not available for the parliamentary constituency of Feltham and Heston as data are collected at a local authority level. The available information on how much has been spent per pupil in Hounslow local authority is shown in the following table:

School based expenditure per pupil from 1997-98 to 2008-09

		England	*Hounslow*
1997-98	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	1,740	2,060
	Secondary Education	2,360	2,670
	Special Schools	9,830	11,920
	Total (including Pre-primary)	2,080	2,430
1998-99	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	1,870	2,240
	Secondary Education	2,450	2,750
	Special Schools	10,110	11,740
	Total (including Pre-primary)	2,190	2,560
1999-2000	Primary Education	2,010	2,340
	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	2,050	2,380
	Secondary Education	2,610	2,770
	Special Schools	10,900	11,610
	Total (including Pre-primary)	2,390	2,670
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	2,370	2,640
2000-01	Primary Education	2,210	2,470
	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	2,280	2,530
	Secondary Education	2,830	3,070
	Special Schools	11,860	12,890
	Total (including Pre-primary)	2,620	2,900
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	2,590	2,870
2001-02	Primary Education	2,480	2,820
	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	2,570	2,880
	Secondary Education	3,150	3,410
	Special Schools	13,030	14,380
	Total (including Pre-primary)	2,940	3,260
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	2,900	3,220

School based expenditure per pupil from 1997-98 to 2008-09

		England	*Hounslow*
2002-03	Primary Education	2,530	2,840
	Secondary Education	3,230	3,740
	Special Schools	12,820	14,760
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	2,950	3,400
2003-04	Primary Education	2,750	3,060
	Secondary Education	3,550	4,040
	Special Schools	14,050	15,670
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	3,230	3,680
2004-05	Primary Education	2,910	3,160
	Secondary Education	3,800	4,380
	Special Schools	15,110	16,790
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	3,450	3,890
2005-06	Primary Education	3,150	3,440
	Secondary Education	4,070	4,700
	Special Schools	16,430	17,810
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	3,720	4,200
2006-07	Primary Education	3,360	3,630
	Secondary Education	4,320	4,880
	Special Schools	17,480	18,940
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	3,950	4,400
2007-08	Primary Education	3,580	3,910
	Secondary Education	4,620	5,190
	Special Schools	18,650	20,470
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	4,210	4,700
2008-09	Primary Education	3,780	4,150
	Secondary Education	4,890	5,490
	Special Schools	19,790	20,990
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	4,460	4,970

Notes:

1. The financial information used in the answer is taken from CLG's RO1 collection (1997-98 to 1998-99) and from the DCSF S52 collection (1999-2000 onwards).
2. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables. The change in sources is shown by the dotted line. From 2002-03 school based expenditure is taken from Section 52 Outturn Table A.
3. Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending maintained establishments within each sector and are drawn from the DCSF Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.
4. The 1999-2000 figures reflect the return of GM schools to local authority maintenance. Consequently Las where there entire pupil provision were educated in GM schools will show a unit cost of zero prior to 1999-2000.
5. Expenditure was not distinguished between the pre-primary and primary sectors until the inception of Section 52 for financial year 1999-2000.
6. School based expenditure in LA maintained nursery schools was not recorded in 2002-03 and comparable figures are not available for 2003-04 onwards.
7. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 8 February 2010.

Schools: Health Hazards

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department provides to schools on the effects on children's health of mobile telephones. [316542]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We have made available for schools the precautionary advice of the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones together with clarifications obtained by the Chief Medical Officer. These confirm that children less than 16 years of age should be discouraged from using mobiles phones for non-essential calls since they are more likely than adults to be vulnerable to any unrecognised health risks.

Schools: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on repairs to schools in Hemsworth in each year since 1997. [316611]

Mr. Coaker: Repairs which bring schools back to their original state constitute a revenue expense, and are paid out of revenue funding. Repairs which amount to capital improvement, such as a better insulation are payable from capital allocations.

School-based expenditure on repairs and maintenance of buildings in Wakefield local authority, as reported by the local authority, is set out in the following table. Information is not collected in respect of Hemsworth.

	£ million
1999-2000	7.1
2000-01	8.8
2001-02	3.9
2002-03	3.9
2003-04	4.1
2004-05	4.6
2005-06	4.7
2006-07	5.3
2007-08	6.5
2008-09	5.8

School capital allocations are not made directly to Hemsworth, but to Wakefield local authority. Allocations by the Department to Wakefield during the period of 1997-98 to 2009-11 are £222.6 million.

	£ million
1997-98	5.2
1998-99	7.9
1999-2000	7.4
2000-01	13.4
2001-02	13.7
2002-03	17.3
2003-04	20.6
2004-05	19.4
2005-06	21.2
2006-07	16.7
2007-08	15.7
2008-09	15.0
2009-10	25.8
2010-11	23.3

Schools: Sports

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to increase provision of sport in schools in Coventry. [315940]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department funds a national network of 450 School Sport Partnerships to increase the quality and quantity of PE and Sport in schools.

The following table sets out the amount of funding that schools in Coventry have received over the last five years to undertake this work.

	£
2005/06	618,620
2006/07	867,792
2007/08	803,751
2008/09	914,060
2009/10	925,602
Total	4,129,825

Social Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many serious case reviews have been outstanding for more than one year. [316073]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 5 February 2010]:* The Department does not collate this information centrally.

Chapter 8 of the statutory guidance, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', published in December 2009, states that serious case reviews should be completed within six months from the date of the decision to proceed.

Ofsted has responsibility for evaluating all serious case reviews and considers the timeliness of their completion as part of that process. The second Ofsted report on serious case reviews, 'Learning Lessons from Serious Case Reviews: Year 2', published in October 2009, noted that "Serious case reviews are generally being carried out more speedily" but that "56 reviews took between one year and two years". The report went on to note that the time taken did not automatically determine the quality of the review and in some instances delays led to improvements in quality, for example as a result of the effective scrutiny of overview panels returning inadequate individual management reviews. It went on to state that longer timescales raised questions about the effectiveness of the reviews in identifying lessons to be learnt quickly enough and thus making a difference in practice.

Chapter 8 of the statutory guidance, 'Working Together To Safeguard Children' is clear that where lessons are able to be identified they should be acted upon as quickly as possible.

Social Services: Doncaster

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2010, *Official Report,* column 302W, on social services: Doncaster, with whom meetings were held on each visit listed; and what topics were discussed at each such meeting. [316435]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information is shown in the following table.

Name	*Date(s) of visit*	*Place(s) of visit/ meetings held*	*Topic discussed/purpose of visit*
Charles Clarke	5 May 2004	Doncaster College	Not recorded
	9 November 2004	Youth Offenders Unit	Not recorded
Stephen Twigg	22 September 2004	Barnby Dun and Hexthorpe Primary Schools	Not recorded
Lord Filkin	28 January 2005	Prison Officers Association Learning Centre	To open the new Learning Centre
Lord Adonis	15 July 2005	Thorne Grammar School	Not recorded
	25 April 2007	Mayor Martin Winter	Not recorded
Ed Balls	13 July 2007	Scawthorpe Castle Hills Primary School and Scawsby Rosedale Primary School	Flood recovery discussions
	12 September 2008	Relate HQ	To learn more about Relate's work
Jim Knight	4 June 2008	Serlby Park School	To promote The Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment.
		Toll Bar Primary School	The involvement and support of 2012 Olympics and Impact of flooding on the school
		Campsmount Technology College	To learn more about the work done in fostering greater parental engagement

With reference to the answer of 2 February 2010, *Official Report,* column 302W we incorrectly stated that Ruth Kelly visited Doncaster on 5 May and 9 November 2004. This was in fact Charles Clarke.

Social Services: Kirklees

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to *(a)* receive and *(b)* publish the executive summary of the serious case review into the Karen Matthews case in Kirklees. [316198]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 8 February 2010]:* Preparation of serious case reviews and publication of related executive summaries are matters for Local Safeguarding Children Boards, acting in accordance with statutory guidance. I understand that the Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board has undertaken a serious case review into the case mentioned and will publish the executive summary as soon as it is able.

Special Educational Needs: Suffolk

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children with special educational needs in Suffolk have been educated outside that county in each year since 1997; and what the cost was to the local education authority of that provision. [314872]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It is not possible to provide all of the information requested on pupil numbers and costs as it would involve disproportionate costs. Table 1 provides information on the amount spent by Suffolk local authority on fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad in the financial years 2000-01 to 2009-10. Information for earlier years is not available. Table 2 provides the number of pupils from Suffolk local authority educated in non-maintained special schools for the years 2003, 2007, 2008 and 2009. Residency information for pupils attending independent schools is not collected. Information for years prior to 2003 is not available on a comparable basis.

Table 1: S52 Budget 2001-02 to 2009-10, Table 1 data as reported by local authorities, fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad[1], Suffolk

	Number
2000-01	3,794,410
2001-02	3,993,310
2002-03	4,387,950
2003-04	5,711,070
2004-05	6,077,850
2005-06	6,160,690
2006-07	6,390,000
2007-08	6,551,210
2008-09	6,902,410
2009-10	7,037,780

[1] Funding for schools outside of authority control. Therefore, this may be outside the geography of the LA or within the geographical boundary in the independent sector. *Note:* Figures are rounded to nearest £10.

Table 2: Number of pupils from Suffolk local authority educated in non-maintained special schools for the years 2003, 2007, 2008 and 2009

		Number of pupils with a statement of SEN educated outside the resident local authority			
	Resident local authority	*2003*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
935	Suffolk	82	72	69	72

Stress

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the advice issued to staff of his Department on stress recognition and management. [314519]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families is committed to creating a healthy and safe working environment for all its employees. Effective stress recognition, prevention and management, in line with the Health and Safety Management Standards, are important elements of this commitment. The Department will place a copy of the advice and guidance issued to staff in the Libraries.

Sussex

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Mid Sussex constituency, the effects on Mid Sussex of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 2000. [314780]

Mr. Coaker: Since 2000 the Government have transformed education and child care with improved outcomes for children and young people. Figures showing the performance at Key Stage 2 and at GCSE and equivalents in Mid Sussex are given in the following tables:

Key Stage 2 results of 11-year-old pupils attending schools in the Mid Sussex constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining level 4 and above	*2000*	*2009[1]*	*Percentage point improvement 2000-09*
Mid-Sussex			
English[2]	83	85	2
Maths[2]	82	85	3
Science[2]	94	92	-2
England			
English[3]	75	80	5
Maths[3]	72	79	7
Science[3]	85	88	3

[1] Revised data.
[2] Pupils attending schools in Mid Sussex constituency.
[3] The average for all schools in England.
Source:
School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables

GCSE and equivalents[1] results for pupils[2] attending schools in the Mid Sussex constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining:	*2000*	*2009[3]*	*Percentage point improvement 2000-09*
Mid Sussex[4]			
5+ A*-C	65.6	71.9	6.3
5+ A*-G	93.7	95.8	2.1
National Average			
5+ A*-C	49.2	70.0	20.8
5+ A*-G	88.9	92.3	3.4

[1] From 2004 results incorporate GCSEs, GNVQs and a range of other qualifications approved pre-16. Prior to 2004 results are based on GCSEs and GNVQs only.
[2] From 2006 figures are for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. Prior to 2006 results are based on pupils aged 15.
[3] Revised data.
[4] Parliamentary constituency figures are based on all maintained schools (including City Technology Colleges and, from 2003, Academies).
Source:
School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables

Further information by constituency is provided within the Department's 'In Your Area' website available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/inyourarea

Information available at constituency level includes the number of specialist schools, number of operational Academies, number of teaching assistants and other support staff, number of teachers and pupil:teacher ratios. Where information is not available at constituency level it has been provided at local authority level including the number of free early education places taken up by three and four-year-olds, number full time and part time entrants to Higher Education Institutions aged 18 to 20, average A level point score per candidate and per entry together with Percentage of People of Working Age Qualified to at least Level 2 and Percentage of People of Working Age Qualified to Level 4 and above.

Additional information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Truancy: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls who were eligible for free school meals were classified as persistent absentees in 2006-07. [314326]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 29 January 2010]:* The requested information is shown in the table.

Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1,2,3]: Number and proportion of persistent absentees[4] by free school meal eligibility 2006-07 in England

	Pupil enrolments who are eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees	Proportion of pupil enrolments who are eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees (percentage)[6]	Pupil enrolments who are not eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees	Proportion of pupil enrolments who are eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees (percentage)[6]	All pupil enrolments classified as persistent absentees[7]	Proportion of pupil enrolments classified as absentees (percentage)[6]
Boys[5]	49,210	9.3	86,100	3.1	138,250	4.1
Girls[5]	46,560	9.2	85,910	3.3	134,710	4.2

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Persistent absentees are defined as having 64 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year, typically over 20 per cent. overall absence rate.

[5] Number of pupil enrolments in schools from start of the school year up until 25 May 2007. Includes pupils on the roll for at least one session who are aged between five and 15, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once.

[6] The number of persistent absentee enrolments expressed as a percentage of the total number of enrolments with the same characteristics.

[7] Includes pupils for whom characteristic data were missing or unclassified.

Note:

Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of white British *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls who were eligible for free school meals were classified as persistent absentees in 2006-07. [314327]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 29 January 2010]:* The requested information is shown in the table.

Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3]: Number and proportion of persistent absentees[4] by free school meal eligibility 2006/07, in England

	White British[5]					
	Pupil enrolments who are eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees	Proportion of pupil enrolments who are eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees[6]	Pupil enrolments who are not eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees	Proportion of pupil enrolments who are not eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees[6]	All pupil enrolments classified as persistent absentees	Proportion of pupil enrolments classified as absentees[6]
Boys	37,970	11.0	69,250	3.1	107,210	4.2
Girls	36,240	11.0	70,420	3.3	106,660	4.3

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Persistent absentees are defined as having 64 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year, typically over 20 per cent. overall absence rate.

[5] Number of pupil enrolments in schools from start of the school year up until 25 May 2007. Includes pupils on the roll for at least one session who are aged between five and 15, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once.

[6] The number of persistent absentee enrolments expressed as a percentage of the total number of enrolments with the same characteristics.

Note:

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Truancy: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the unauthorised absence rate was for pupils in Leeds local authority area in each year [illegible] 1997. [316341]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 8 February 2010]:* The available information is shown in the table. To provide information for further years would incur disproportionate cost.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1,2,3]: percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence 1996/97 to 2007/08[4]— Leeds local authority

	Percentage[5]
1996/97	1.22
1999/2000	1.17
2003/04	1.14
2006/07	1.59
2007/08	1.48

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).

[3] Includes maintained and non maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Figures prior to 2006/07 have been sourced from the Absence in Schools Survey. Other figures are derived from the School Census.

[5] The number of sessions missed due to unauthorised absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

Source:

Absence in Schools Survey and School Census[2]

Truancy: West Sussex

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the unauthorised absence rate was for pupils in *(a)* Mid Sussex constituency and *(b)* West Sussex in each year since 1997. [314792]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 2 February 2010]:* The available information is shown in the table.

To provide information for further years would incur disproportionate cost.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3] percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence 1996/97 to 2007/08[4]

	Percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence[5]	
	Mid Sussex constituency	West Sussex
1996/97	0.18	0.35
1999/2000	0.30	0.44
2003/04	0.33	0.44
2007/08	0.50	0.64

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).
[3] Includes maintained and non maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Figures prior to 2007/08 have been sourced from the Absence in Schools Survey. Other figures are derived from the School Census.
[5] The number of sessions missed due to unauthorised absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.
Source:
Absence in Schools Survey and School Census (see foot note 4)

West Sussex

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will set out, with statistical information as closely related to Mid Sussex constituency as possible, the effect on that constituency of the policies of his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [317325]

Mr. Coaker: Since 1997 the Government have transformed education and child care with improved outcomes for children and young people. Figures showing the performance at Key Stage 2 and at GCSE and equivalents in Mid Sussex are given in the following tables:

Key Stage 2 results of 11 year old pupils attending schools in the Mid Sussex constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining level 4 and above[1]	1997	2009[2]	Percentage point improvement 1997 to 2009
Mid Sussex—English	72	85	13
Mid Sussex—maths	73	85	12
Mid Sussex—science	82	92	10
England—English	63	80	17
England—maths	62	79	17
England—science	68	88	20

[1] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including Academies and City Technology Colleges)
[2] Revised data
Source:
School and College Achievement and Attainment tables

GCSE and equivalents[1] results for pupils[2] attending schools[3] in the Mid Sussex constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining	1997	2009[4]	Percentage point improvement 1997 to 2009
Mid Sussex—5+ A*-C	60.9	71.9	11
Mid Sussex—5+ A*-G	93.6	95.8	2.2
England—5+ A*-C[5]	45.1	70.0	24.9
England—5+ A*-G[5]	86.4	92.3	5.9

[1] From 2004 results incorporate GCSEs, GNVQs and a range of other qualifications approved pre-16. Prior to 2004 results are based on GCSEs and GNVQs only.
[2] From 2006 figures are for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. Prior to 2006 results are based on pupils aged 15.
[3] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including Academies and City Technology Colleges), figures from 2000 do not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.
[4] Revised data.
[5] England figures also include independent schools as well as hospital schools and PRUs.
Source:
School and College Achievement and Attainment tables.

Further information by constituency is available on the Department's 'In Your Area' website:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/inyourarea

The information available at constituency level includes the number of specialist schools, number of operational Academies, number of teaching assistants and other support staff, number of teachers and pupil: teacher ratios. Where information is not available at constituency level it has been provided at local authority level including the number of free early education places taken up by three and four year olds, number of full-time and part-time entrants to higher education institutions aged 18 to 20, average A level point score per candidate and per entry together with Percentage of People of Working Age Qualified to at least Level 2 and Percentage of People of Working Age Qualified to Level 4 and above.

Additional information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Young People: Refuges

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on the future of the London Refuge; and if he will make a statement. [315802]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 5 February 2010]:* The Department received a copy of a letter from the chief executive of St. Christopher's Fellowship to directors of Children's Services in London, explaining the financial situation regarding the Refuge, on 19 June. Since then, no direct representations from St. Christopher's have been made. The future of the Refuge was also raised in business questions on 10 December.

Officials are conducting a review of services for runaways in London and the Government have offered financial support if it is needed to help start the process of strengthening these services.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 24 February 2010

WALES

Manufacturing Industries

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people have been employed in the manufacturing sector in Wales in each year since 1997. [318482]

Mr. Hain: The estimated numbers of employee jobs in the manufacturing sector in Wales in each year since 1997 are as follows:

As at September each year	*Number*
1997	214,006
1998	216,186
1999	206,861
2000	201,647
2001	194,762
2002	184,952
2003	181,649
2004	179.941
2005	172,090
2006	158,004
2007	160,293
2008	154,982
2009	140,593

Source:
NOMIS, Employee Job Estimates

Ports

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he had with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Transport on ports policy between the date of publication of the Welsh Affairs Select Committee's Fifteenth Report of Session 2008-09, on Ports in Wales HC 601 and the date upon which the Government responded to that report. [318279]

Mr. David: The Wales Office contributed to the formulation of the Government response to the Welsh Affairs Committee "Ports in Wales" Report for which the Department of Transport was the lead Department. There were no direct discussions between Ministers of the respective departments but the issues raised by the Report are discussed on an ongoing basis.

SCOTLAND

Computer Games Industry

4. **Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had on assistance to the computer games industry in Scotland. [317404]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend has regular discussions with colleagues on a range of issues affecting the games industry in Scotland.

During a visit to Abertay university, Dundee, in December 2009 my right hon. Friend announced a £2.5 million investment for a games industry centre from the Government's strategic investment fund.

Social Deprivation: Ayrshire

12. **Ms Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on policy to reduce levels of social deprivation in Ayrshire. [317413]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues about deprivation and reducing poverty including discussions about tax credits, the national minimum wage and employment.

Economic Performance

13. **Mr. Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had on the performance of the Scottish economy. [317414]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues, representatives from business, trade unions and communities about the performance of the Scottish economy.

Common Agricultural Policy

14. **Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on discussions at EU level on reform of the common agricultural policy. [317415]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues.

Departmental Energy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the estimated *(a)* amount and *(b)* cost was of energy used in his Department in each year since 1997; what proportion of the energy used was generated from renewable sources in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [317232]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office did not centrally record all of its utility usage before the current financial year. This information is, however, now recorded and will be reported in our forthcoming annual report.

Future Jobs Fund

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Future Jobs Fund in Scotland. [317407]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Future Jobs Fund is making a significant impact in Scotland. Last week I announced funding for a further 1,371 new jobs in Scotland through the Future Jobs Fund, which brings the total number of jobs created in Scotland to just under 9,000.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Dubai: Death

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Dubai on the alleged murder of a Palestinian national by a group alleged to include British passport holders; and if he will make a statement. [318478]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 22-23.

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Israel on the use of British passports in association with the death in Dubai of a Palestinian national; and if he will make a statement. [318480]

Chris Bryant: The defrauding of British passports is unacceptable. The Government will continue to take all the action that is necessary to protect British nationals from identity-fraud. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made this clear in a meeting with his Israeli counterpart Avigdor Lieberman in Brussels on 23 February 2010.

Nigeria: Human Rights

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights record of the government of Nigeria. [318204]

Chris Bryant: The UK is committed to supporting the Government of Nigeria in addressing the human rights challenges it faces. We welcome Acting President Jonathan's commitment of 9 February 2010 to ensuring the safety and security of Nigerians' lives and property while respecting human rights.

We have recently raised our concerns with the appropriate state and federal authorities about issues such as the rights of children in Akwa Ibom state, the handling of unrest by the Nigerian security services in Maiduguri in 2009 and Jos in 2010, as well as allegations of extra-judicial killings by the Nigerian police force in Enugu state, as identified in Amnesty International's report of 9 December 2009. These issues have been covered particularly in discussions with the Inspector General of the Nigerian police force and the Secretary to the Government of the Federation. Our high commission in Abuja and the Department for International Development (DFID) will continue to raise UK concerns at the highest level, and to encourage reform and accountability in Nigeria's police force, for example through DFID's Justice for All programme.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce the volume of illegal drugs trafficked through the UK. [317216]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The trafficking of drugs to the UK is the subject of constant attention by the law enforcement agencies working collaboratively, in the United Kingdom and overseas, against the drugs and individuals involved. In 2008-09 the Serious Organised Crime Agency was involved, with partner agencies, in seizures of 88 tonnes of cocaine and heroin. SOCA works closely with international partners to help them destroy production capability in source countries and deny traffickers the ability to operate their routes to the UK. This enforcement activity appears to have contributed to increases in the wholesale price of cocaine and a reduction in its purity at street level, changes which are suggestive of a shortage of supply of the drug in the UK.

We are currently implementing the recommendations of 'Extending Our Reach: a comprehensive approach to tackling serious organised crime' which was published in July 2009 which, through a wide range of measures, will improve the UK's effectiveness against organised crime, including drugs trafficking.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in *(a)* Europe, *(b)* the US and *(c)* Afghanistan on measures to tackle the trafficking of illegal drugs. [317217]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I had discussions with US counterparts (John Brennan, the President's Assistant on Counter-Terrorism, Janet Napolitano, the Homeland Security Secretary, and Eric Holder, the Attorney General) in Washington in September. We discussed measures to tackle the trafficking of illegal drugs, looking at source countries and supply routes. Our discussions immediately followed my visit to the Joint Inter-Agency Task Force in Key West, Florida, where joint work is producing strong results in interdicting the traffic in cocaine from Latin America and the Caribbean. I secured agreement for the creation of a senior level US/UK group on organised crime, to include counter narcotics activity.

In my absence on other business earlier this month, Lord West met Gil Kerlikowske, the US Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, in London and a number of common issues were discussed, including operational cooperation in tackling drug trafficking.

I continue to take a close interest in EU proposals and actions to tackle drug trafficking, where UK officials are fully engaged with our EU colleagues, focusing on work in Latin America and the Caribbean, West Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Powers of Entry

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to his Department's document entitled Guidance on Powers of Entry—Scrutiny by the Home Department, how many requests for new powers of entry from organisations other than the police have been *(a)* approved and *(b)* refused by his Department since October 2007. [312858]

Mr. Hanson: Applications are submitted to the Home Department in accordance with guidance issued to Government Departments on entry powers:

http://www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/
operational-policing/GuidanceonPowersofEntry.html

The function of referral to the Home Office is to assist Departments in complying with that guidance rather than refusing applications. The following statutory provisions have been subject to referral to my Department since October 2007.

Current Bills before Parliament

—	*Statute*	*Department responsible*	*Number of powers*
1	Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Bill cl. 12 Power to enter premises and search for prohibited munitions cl. 21 Power to search and obtain evidence: issue of warrant	BIS	2
2	Flood and Water Management Bill Sch.1 para. 13 Powers of entry without warrant.	DEFRA	1
3	Sunbeds (Regulation) Bill 2009-10 cl. 7 Enforcement by local Authorities	DOH	1

Secondary legislation

	Year	*Statute*	*Department responsible*	*Number of powers*
1	2000	Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (as amended by Political Parties and Elections Act 2009) Schedule 19B Investigatory powers of Electoral Commission—Para. 2: Issue by JP of Inspection warrants authorising EC staff to enter premises	MOJ	1
2	2006	Childcare Act 2006 (as amend by Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009) Part 3A Inspection of Children Centres. s.98D: Inspection of Children Centres powers of entry without warrant. s.98F: Power of constable to assist in exercise of power of entry under a warrant.	DCSF	2
3	2008	Regulatory and Enforcement Sanctions Act 2008 Part 3 s.55 Power to make Order conferring/extending powers of entry, search seizure.	BIS (BERR)	—
4	2008	Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Repeals and replaces powers of entry etc. under the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003) s.62-65: Powers of person authorised by Care Quality Commission to enter and inspect regulated premises.	DOH	1
5	2008	Pensions Act 2008 s.61 amends 2004 Act http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2008/pdf/ukpga_20080030_en.pdf	DWP	—
6	2009	Banking Act 2009—Enforcement of inter-bank payment system s.194: JP may issue warrant to authorised BoE inspector appointed under s.193 or constable to enter and search premises/part of premises where inter-bank payment system is managed or operated.	HMT	1
7	2009	Coroners and Justice Act 2009-Powers for Coroners to investigate deaths Schedule 5: para. 3 Chief Coroner may authorise senior coroner to enter and search land	MOJ	1
8	2009	Data Protection Act 1998 (as amended by Coroners and Justice Act 2009, Sch. 20 Part 6) Schedule 9 (Powers of Entry and Inspection): Para. 1(1A)/(1B): Allows circuit judge or District Judge to grant warrant to authorise DP Commissioner to enter and search premises specified in an assessment notice to determine whether data controller is complying with DP principles.	MOJ	1
9	2009	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 Part 8, Chapter 2 Common enforcement powers	DEFRA	4

Secondary legislation

	Year	Statute	Department responsible	Number of powers
		s.246: Power of enforcement officer to board and inspect vessels and marine installations		
		s.247: Power of enforcement officer to enter and inspect premises for purposes of exercising functions.		
		s.248: Power of enforcement officer to enter and inspect vehicles purposes of exercising functions.		
		s.249/Schedule 17: Provides for issue of warrant to authorise enforcement officer to enter a dwelling. (Believed these provisions may replace one or more powers in marine/fishery protection/ regulation type legislation) DEFRA		

Secondary legislation

No.	Year	SI No.	Authority	Title	Department	No. of powers
1.	2008	2347	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20082347_en_1	Sea Fishing (Recovery Measures) Order 2008 [2008/2347] Reg. 13 Powers of British sea-fishery officers in relation to fishing boats Reg. 14 Powers of British sea-fishery officers on land Reg. 15 Warrant to enter premises	DEFRA	3
2.	2008	2795	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20082795_en_1	Cat and Dog Fur (Control of Import, Export and Placing on the Market) Regulations 2008 [2008/2795] Reg. 3: Powers of investigation and enforcement.	BIS	1
3.	2009	1899	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20091899_en_1	Motor Vehicles (Replacement Catalytic Converters and Pollution Control Devices) Regulations 2009 [2009/1899] Reg. 9(2) and Schedule Para. 5: Powers of search etc. (2): Power of authorised enforcement officer to enter premises without warrant—not dwellings (5): JP may issue warrant authorising authorised enforcement officer to enter premises	DFT	2
4.	2009	261	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20090261_en_1	Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2009 [2009/261] (Revoke and remake with amendments the Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2008/41) Reg. 46: Powers of authorised persons to enforce regulations.	DEFRA	1
5.	2009	2048	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/pdf/uksi_20092048_en.pdf	Port Security Regulations 2009 [2009/2048] Reg. 25: Powers of a constable, port security officers and others to enter and search controlled buildings in designated ports.	DFT	1
6.	2009	463	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20090463_en_5	Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 [2009/463] Reg. 32(2): Entry and inspection of land and premises w/o warrant. Reg. 32(3): Warrant to enter dwelling	DEFRA	2
7.	2009	360	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/wsi2009/wsi_20090360_en_1	European Fisheries Fund (Grants) (Wales) Regulations 2009 [2009/360] Reg. 12: Powers of authorised officers.	NAFW	1

Secondary legislation

No.	*Year*	*SI No.*	*Authority*	*Title*	*Department*	*No. of powers*
8.	2009	842	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20090842_en_4#pt5-l1g26	Organic Products Regulations [2009/842] (revoke and replace Organic Products Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/1604) Reg. 23: Powers of entry—authorised officers Reg. 24: Powers after entry	DEFRA	1
9.	2009	209	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20090209_en_8	Payment Services Regulations 2009 [2009/209] Reg. 83: Entry, inspection without a warrant etc—FSA officer	HMT	1
10.	2009	717	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20090717_en_7#pt6-pb1-l1g34	Road Vehicles (Approval) Regulations 2009 [2009/717] Reg. 34: Powers of entry—authorised person	DFT	1
11.	2009	216	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20090216_en_1	Ozone-Depleting Substances (Qualifications) Regulations 2009 [2009/216] (revoke and replace, with amendments, Ozone Depleting Substances (Qualifications) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/1510) Reg. 8: Powers of an authorised person	DEFRA	1
12.	2009	2194	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20092194_en_1	Motor Vehicles (Refilling of Air Conditioning Systems by Service Providers) Regulations [2009/2194] Reg. 8: Powers of search etc. (2): Power of authorised enforcement officer to enter premises without warrant –not dwellings (4): JP may issue warrant authorising authorised enforcement officer to enter premises	DFT	2
13.	2009	1361	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20091361_en_1	Marketing of Fresh Horticultural Produce Regulations 2009 [2009/1361] Reg. 7(1) Power of authorised officer to enter without warrant to enforce Regs. Reg. 7(4): Entry on warrant	DEFRA	2
14.	2009	1551	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/wsi2009/wsi_20091551_en_1	Marketing of Fresh Horticultural Produce (Wales) Regulations 2009 [2009/1551] W151 Reg. 7(1) Power of authorised officer to enter without warrant to enforce Regs. Reg. 7(4): Entry on warrant	NAFW	2
15.	2008	3252	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/pdf/uksi_20083252_en.pdf	Beef and Veal Labelling Regulations 2008 [2008/3252] Reg. 6(1) Entry to inspect w/o warrant Reg. 6(3) Entry on warrant Revokes Beef Labelling (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2000 [2000/3047]	DEFRA	2
16.	2009	1850	European Communities Act 1972		DEFRA	3

Secondary legislation

No.	*Year*	*SI No.*	*Authority*	*Title*	*Department*	*No. of powers*
			http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/pdf/uksi_20091850_en.pdf	Sea Fishing (Landing and Weighing of Herring, Mackerel and Horse Mackerel) Order 2009 [2009/1850] Reg. 11 Powers of British sea-fishery officers in relation to fishing boats Reg. 12 Powers of British sea-fishery officers on land Reg. 13 Warrant to enter premises		
17.	2010	Await	European Communities Act 1972	(Proposed) Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2009	DEFRA	—
18.	2010	Await	European Communities Act 1972	(Proposed) Red Meat Industry (Wales) Measure	NAFW	—

UK Border Agency: Overtime

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency spent on overtime payments to civil servants at grade *(a)* 5 and *(b)* 6 in each of the last two years. [317150]

Mr. Woolas: The amount that the UK Border Agency spent on overtime payments to civil servants at grade *(a)* senior civil service and *(b)* six in each of the last two years was *(a)* nothing and *(b)* £1,684.

Home Office civil servants in the UK Border Agency at grade *(a)* 5, are not eligible for overtime payments and, (this grade has now been re-graded into the senior civil service whose contracts specifically exclude overtime). Civil service staff at grade 6 level are not eligible for overtime payments. There is guidance on discretionary payments instead of overtime, which are used rarely.

Vetting: Compensation

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 756-7W, on vetting: compensation, how much the Criminal Records Bureau has paid in financial awards to provide redress for customers for maladministration since 1997. [317218]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) makes financial awards to redress customers for its maladministration in accordance with Treasury policy.

The following table shows the number of claims made, the number of those claims which resulted in an award and the amount paid out in each financial year since the Bureau's inception.

Financial year	*Total certificates issued*	*Claims*	*Awards*	*Total paid (£)*	*Percentage of Awards against total certificates issued*
2002-03	1,437,094	340	112	29,882	0.008
2003-04	2,284,688	609	237	108,669	0.011
2004-05	2,430,937	466	125	62,812	0.005
2005-06	2,770,265	532	71	118,272	0.003
2006-07	3,277,957	684	151	165,043	0.005
2007-08	3,23,251	594	151	159,148	0.046
2008-09	3,855,881	1085	301	290,124	0.008
2009-10	3,215,409	1442	265	340,266	0.008

These figures are calculated by financial year and information for 2009-10 contains the figures up to December 2009. The full financial year's figure will not be available until after March 2010.

Work Permits

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits carrying entitlement to settlement in the UK were issued to non-EU citizens in each year since 2005. [317635]

Alan Johnson: A work permit does not carry an entitlement to settlement.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to answer question 300301, on departmental pay, tabled on 18 November 2009. [313135]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 346-47W.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to answer question 310383, on fingerprints in passports, tabled on 7 January 2010. [317196]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 373W.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Email

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission with reference to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1211-2W, and pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 434W, on Members: email, if the House of Commons Commission will direct to be placed on the House of Commons website *(a)* a list of the forms of email encryption members of the public can use to communicate securely with their Members of Parliament and *(b)* a directory of encryption certificates and PGP keys used by hon. Members. [318317]

Nick Harvey: It is a matter for individual Members whether to make details of their encryption software available to their constituents.

Nurseries: Costs

Michael Fabricant: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate he has made of the cost of converting Bellamy's Bar, Bellamy's Club Room and the Astor Suite and surrounding rooms into a crèche, including the cost of all other construction work required associated with the crèche. [317550]

Nick Harvey: The cost, including fees, of converting Bellamy's Bar, Bellamy's Club Room and the Astor Suite and surrounding rooms into a nursery is provisionally estimated to be some £490,000 excluding VAT.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Castle Point constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [318082]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department's aim is to improve the quality of life for everyone through cultural and sporting activities, to support the pursuit of excellence and to champion the tourism, creative and leisure industries.

The impact of bodies and policies of my Department on the Castle Point constituency since 1997 include:

> Digital switchover is due to take place in Castle Point in 2012. By the time switchover is complete at the end of 2012, 98.5 per cent. of households nationwide will be able to receive digital TV—the same number that can currently receive analogue.
>
> Over £4 million of national lottery grants made to applications from the Castle Point constituency since 1995.

The Castle Point constituency has also benefited from other policies and spending whose impact cannot be broken down by constituency. This includes:

> £4 billion of Exchequer funding spent on culture.
>
> More than £5.5 billion invested in sport by the Government and the national lottery since 1997.
>
> Almost 800,000 free swims taken in the south east in the first eight months of the Free Swimming programme.
>
> A 68 per cent. increase in national museum visits from 1998-99 to 2008-09—10 per cent. of which were by adults from lower socioeconomic groups.
>
> £416.6 million in grants allocated by English Heritage since 1997.
>
> 48 per cent. of buildings on the original 1999 Buildings at Risk Register having their future secured.
>
> 90 per cent. of all pupils taking part in at least two hours of high quality PE or sport per week in 2008 from an estimated 25 per cent. in 2003-04—exceeding our target.

Departmental Energy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the estimated *(a)* amount and *(b)* cost was of energy used in his Department and its agency in each year since 1997; what proportion of the energy used was generated from renewable sources in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [317237]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

	Electricity Kwh	Electricity cost (£)	Gas Kwh	Gas cost (£)
2003-04	4,368,200	n/a	3,275,900	n/a
2004-05	4,186,300	n/a	2,643,900	n/a
2005-06	4,438,600	n/a	2,488,400	n/a
2006-07	4,320,100	361,500	2,631,300	86,600
2007-08	3,647,800	293,100	2,135,400	48,800
2008-09	3,091,900	318,500	1,344,400	37,300

n/a = Not available.

Since December 2005 the Department has purchased energy generated from 100 per cent. renewable sources. Information relating to years prior to 2003 is not available.

The Royal Parks

	Electricity Kwh	Electricity cost (£)	Gas Kwh	Gas cost (£)
1999-2000	[1]—	213,300	[1]—	45,700
2000-01	[1]—	228,400	[1]—	77,900
2001-02	[1]—	208,800	[1]—	78,800
2002-03	[1]—	245,000	[1]—	82,100
2003-04	[1]—	270,200	[1]—	107,000
2004-05	4,141,300	270,600	1,275,700	81,300
2005-06	3,346,100	360,000	1,402,600	2,100
2006-07	3,220,000	357,000	1,505,300	46,600
2007-08	2,995,000	224,900	1,490,500	61,900
2008-09	[1]—	505,600	[1]—	110,600

[1] Not recorded.

Since 2002 The Royal Parks has purchased energy generated from 100 per cent. renewable sources. Information relating to years prior to 2002 is not available.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many designs for its website his Department has commissioned since 2005. [318655]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department commissioned one redesign of its website in 2005. We are currently redesigning the website home page.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which companies were contracted by his Department for the provision of temporary staff in each of the last three years; how many temporary staff were employed by his Department in each such year; and what the monetary value was of contracts with each such company in each such year. [317997]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Supplier

(£)

	2008-09	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
Adecco UK Ltd.	96,969.99	217,233.72	453,499.54
Poolia UK Ltd.	109,206.97	106,107.84	47,714.39
Josephine Sammons	35,258.31	50,420.96	99,876.23
Venn Group	0.00	0.00	44,907.83
Morgan Law	161,065.94	50,290.00	36,895.00
Marks Sattin	0.00	7,226.25	26,709.54
Reed Personnel Services	0.00	0.00	38,826.75
TFPL Ltd.	40,670.04	6,319.60	0.00
Robert Walters Operations Ltd.	0.00	0.00	32,890.27
Goodman Masson Recruitment Services	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hays Office Support	76,648.69	13,824.64	0.00
Brook Street	283,321.95	52,591.39	0.00
Taylor Bennett	18,800.00	19,352.25	0.00
Odgers, Ray and Berndtson	54,991.18	238,210.59	149,048.92
Capita Resourcing	34,368.75	12,337.50	32,431.88
Whithead Mann Ltd.	0.00	0.00	164,368.02
Total	911,301.82	773,914.74	1,127,168.37

	2008-09	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
Average number of temporary staff employed	31	21	22

Holiday Accommodation

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the compliance with European Commission state aid rules of his Department's policy on the participation in marketing initiatives promoted by *(a)* Visit England and *(b)* Visit Britain by operators of holiday homes who do not participate in the National Quality Assurance scheme; and if he will make a statement. [316863]

Margaret Hodge: My Department has been involved in discussions with the European Commission in relation to the specific matters raised by the hon. Member. These discussions have not been concluded and it would be inappropriate to comment on them at this time.

The Department's objective is to ensure that the activities of VisitBritain and VisitEngland are compatible with the rules relating to state aid.

Theatre: Young People

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many free theatre tickets have been provided to under-26 year olds by the Arts Council since February 2009. [310092]

Margaret Hodge: Between February 2009 and November 2009, 121,742 tickets were taken up by young people under the 'A Night Less Ordinary' scheme. Over 20,000 of these tickets have been given away by organisations based in the West Midlands.

Results from 1 December 2009 to 28 February 2010 will be made available in April.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Arts Councils England's A Night Less Ordinary scheme in achieving its objectives. [317185]

Margaret Hodge: An independent evaluation project is running alongside the two year 'A Night Less Ordinary' scheme.

The evaluation will identify, record and measure the effectiveness of the scheme in achieving its objectives at a national and local level.

'A Night Less Ordinary' is a pathfinder programme and the report will help inform the future direction of the programme. We also expect the report to be a useful audience development tool for the entire theatre sector. Evaluation reports will be published in due course.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what average time her Office took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313675]

Tessa Jowell: Information on the average time taken to answer parliamentary questions is not readily available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However in my role as Minister for the Olympics, during 2009, I answered 28 per cent. of ordinary written and 45 per cent. of named day questions on time. These figures are unacceptable and were due to failings in departmental processes. Work has been done to mitigate these failings, and future figures should reflect this.

Further to this, with effect from the current Session of Parliament, each Department will provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics on the time taken to answer written questions. This implements recommendation 24 of the 3rd report from the Procedure Committee, Session 2008-09.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she is taking to encourage construction workers from the North East to work on construction sites for the London 2012 Olympics; and how many such workers there are. [313910]

Tessa Jowell: At the end of December 2009, 41 per cent. of the Olympic park workforce were from parts of the UK outside of London. The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) does not measure the number of workers from each region. People from the North East can access employment opportunities through the national Jobcentre Plus network and businesses from the North East that have won Olympic-related contracts are providing further economic benefits for the region.

In addition to those working on the park, the ODA has 17 direct suppliers registered in the North East, including the designer of the Broxbourne White Water Canoe Centre for Games and legacy from Newcastle upon Tyne. More businesses are securing work further down the supply chain, such as the Durham-based company providing roof cladding for the aquatics centre and the company from Wallsend who are supplying and operating jack machines for bridges and highways projects. More information on businesses that have won Games-related contracts can be found at the business section of the London 2012 website:

www.london2012.com/business

The ODA and its partners have put a range of measures in place to help local people in particular access training and employment opportunities on the Olympic park, which includes 48 hours' exclusive access to vacancies.

Olympic Games 2012: Recruitment

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will ensure that notification of job vacancies arising from the London 2012 Olympics is made through Jobcentre Plus before such vacancies are advertised elsewhere. [316829]

Tessa Jowell: Vacancies on the Olympic park can be accessed across the UK through the national Jobcentre Plus network. The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and its partners have put in place a range of measures to help local people in particular access training and employment opportunities on the site.

Vacancies are offered exclusively to each of the five host borough employment brokerages and Jobcentre Plus offices in the area for a period of 48 hours, to give local people the best possible chance of accessing vacancies on the site. Vacancies unfilled after this time are then made available across London through Relay London Jobs and Jobcentre Plus for a further 24-hours, before being made available nationally through the Jobcentre Plus network. At the end of December 2009, 20 per cent. of the Olympic park workforce were from the five Olympic host boroughs, 33 per cent. from other London boroughs and 41 per cent. from the UK outside of London. 11 per cent. of the workforce were previously unemployed.

In addition to direct employment opportunities on the park, companies are winning contracts both directly with the ODA and in the supply chains of its contractors, helping to spread the economic benefits of the games across the UK. In the North West alone, 44 businesses are directly supplying the ODA and many more are winning work further down the supply chain, such as the Horwich-based company providing steelworks for the Stadium and the Merseyside company supplying roof cladding for the Aquatics Centre.

More information on businesses that have won games-related contracts can be found at the business section of the London 2012 website at:

www.london2012.com/business

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases under consideration by the Child Support Agency involve absent parents in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Perth and North Perthshire constituency. [317061]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 24 February 2010:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases under consideration by the Child Support Agency involve absent parents in (a) Scotland and (b) Perth and North Perthshire constituency. [317061]

I have interpreted 'under consideration' as cases where an application has been made but which has yet to be cleared.

The Child Support Agency's performance has continued to show improvement over the last quarter, building on the stable base provided by successful completion of the Operational Improvement Plan in March 2009.

As at December 2009, the number of uncleared cases in Scotland was 2,120, which represents a 20% decrease from 2,650 in September 2009. In Perth and North Perthshire Parliamentary constituency the volume of uncleared cases fell from 55 in September 2009 to 45 in December 2009. These figures include both old and current scheme applications and those cases administered clerically.

Nationally, uncleared applications fell to 28,900 in December 2009, which is a 6,300 (18%) reduction from September 2009.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental ICT

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which of her Department's information technology projects have been outsourced in the last three years; and what the monetary value was of each contract let in respect of such projects. [313374]

Jim Knight: The provision of IT services to the Department for Work and Pensions in support of business change has been outsourced to private sector suppliers since it was created in 2001. There has been no further outsourcing in the last three years.

Departmental Surveys

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether her Department has conducted any staff satisfaction surveys in the last 12 months. [317156]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP has conducted two such surveys in the last 12 months: in March 2009 and as part of the Civil Service People Survey in October 2009.

Employment Schemes: Financial Services

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether her Department operates programmes to assist workers made redundant from the financial services sector to find employment; [315898]

(2) how much her Department has spent on measures to fund employment for workers previously employed in the financial services sector in the last 12 months; and what steps it has taken to that end. [315899]

Jim Knight: The Government are taking decisive steps to tackle the effects of the recession and reduce unemployment and are committed to helping every unemployed person return to work.

While we do not operate programmes specifically aimed at supporting redundant workers from the financial services sector, we have made available up to £5 billion, since November 2008, to offer a substantial package of new back to work support to all jobseekers, irrespective of their background, throughout their time on jobseeker's allowance.

We have quadrupled funding to the Rapid Response Service which provides support to employees under threat of redundancy, helping them to find new employment quickly.

We have also significantly increased the funding to maintain and increase the existing support that is available to newly unemployed claimants through Jobcentre Plus and its external partners. As well as help with jobsearch, skills and access to basic skills training, newly unemployed people now have day one access to Local Employment Partnership vacancies, help to meet the expenses involved in finding work and, for some, access to Work Trials.

In April 2009, we strengthened this support by introducing group jobsearch sessions specifically targeted at newly unemployed people, as well as specialist back to work support for newly unemployed professionals and executives, delivered through recruitment agencies. We built on this in the recent White Paper "Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment", and from spring 2010, we will be strengthening the support offered to professional customers by offering further access to a follow-up session with these agencies to maintain the momentum of their journey back to work.

Further back to work support is available to all jobseekers throughout their claim and the longer somebody is on jobseeker's allowance, the more support they can get. This currently includes access to recruitment subsidies, self-employment support, work focused training and volunteering at six months and more intensive personalised support from external providers later in a claim.

There is also a substantial package of support available to 18 to 24-year-olds to help them get back to work which includes a guarantee of a job, work focused training or work experiences at the six month stage in a claim.

Employment Schemes: Young People

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of each local authority area in the North West aged between 16 and 24 years old have taken up *(a)* graduate internship, *(b)* a non-graduate internship, *(c)* work and *(d)* training since the Young Person's Guarantee came into effect; and how many are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance under that Guarantee. [317210]

Jim Knight: Information on graduate internships, non-graduate internships, work, and training through the Young Person's Guarantee, is not currently available, but will be made available from spring 2010 through a statistical release that is planned to cover the whole of the Young Person's Guarantee. This is normal practice for the Department's employment programmes and it allows time for the information to be collected, understood, verified and reported.

Future Jobs Fund

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many bids for Future Jobs Fund funding have been accepted in each parliamentary constituency; and how many jobs are expected to be created under bids in each such constituency. [304377]

Jim Knight: The information requested has not been recorded by parliamentary constituency and therefore cannot be provided.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people are participating in Future Jobs Fund jobs; and how many Future Jobs Fund job vacancies there are. [304397]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not currently available. Information on numbers of young people participating in Future Jobs Fund jobs will be made available in future through a statistical release covering the whole of the Young Person's Guarantee. The first publication will be available in the spring, and quarterly thereafter.

Jobcentre Plus: Racism

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints of racism have been made by Jobcentre Plus staff against other Jobcentre Plus staff in each of the last five years, broken down by the smallest geographical area for which information is available; and if she will make a statement. [316597]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh, dated 24 February 2010:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many complaints of racism have been made by Jobcentre Plus staff against other Jobcentre Plus staff in each of the last five years, broken down by smallest geographical area for which information is available. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Department does not maintain any automated data to capture the volumes of formal complaints from current or former staff relating to race discrimination. Although Jobcentre Plus retains clerical information on official written complaints from existing or former members of staff; this data does not identify where complaints relate specifically to any allegations of racism.

Although formal investigations into allegations of harassment, bullying and discrimination are handled through our Department for Work and Pensions Human Resources Investigation Service, some complaints may be addressed separately through local management investigations and there is no available data to provide the requested information in full.

I am, therefore, unable to provide a more detailed reply.

Mining: Industrial Diseases

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many former miners have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been granted industrial injuries benefit for miners' knee in the North East region to date. [317160]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available in the format requested.

The current national position is that since the addition of osteoarthritis of the knee to the list of prescribed industrial diseases on 13 July 2009, 32,820 claims have been received nationally of which 7,713 have received an award of, or an increase of industrial injuries disablement benefit.

This information is based on an ongoing informal count by the Jobcentre Plus offices dealing with industrial injuries disablement benefit. We are looking into arrangements to publish this information as official statistics.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the number of miners and former miners who experience chronic back and neck pain as a result of their working conditions. [317242]

Helen Goodman: It is not possible to provide a reliable estimate because the Labour Force Survey contains insufficient cases of miners, or former miners, who have self-reported work-related musculoskeletal disorders.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what rate of interest her Department used in calculations of entitlements and payments under the Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme in each of the last 12 months. [316746]

Helen Goodman: The standard interest rate used to calculate Support for Mortgage Interest was 6.08 per cent. in each of the last 12 months.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme funding recipients reached the maximum two-year period permitted for claiming in each of the last eight quarters. [316802]

Helen Goodman: The two-year period limit for jobseekers claiming Support for Mortgage Interest (SMI) was introduced in January 2009. It applies only to customers receiving jobseeker's allowance.

No SMI customer has been affected by the introduction of this two-year limit because it is less than two years since it was introduced. The earliest date that a jobseeker could be affected by the two year limit is 5 January 2011 assuming continuous receipt of jobseeker's allowance including SMI throughout the two year period.

New Deal Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many flexible New Deal phase 1 suppliers were fully operational on 6 October 2009. [304381]

Jim Knight: Fourteen supplier organisations were contracted to start delivering flexible new deal from October 2009. Twelve of the 14 started delivery from 5 October, meaning there was a supplier operating in every contract package area from that date. By 20 October all 14 suppliers were fully operational in all phase one contract package areas covering 28 Jobcentre Plus districts.

New Deal Schemes: Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women resident in Feltham and Heston have participated in the New Deal for *(a)* Lone Parents and *(b)* Partners since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [316693]

Helen Goodman: The available information can be found in the following table.

Number of woman participants in the New Deal in Feltham and Heston parliamentary constituency: Time Series to August 2009 - Starters (Spells)

	New Deal for Lone Parents	*New Deal for Partners*
Feltham and Heston		
1997	[1]—	n/a
1998	40	n/a
1999	210	n/a
2000	230	n/a
2001	290	n/a
2002	330	n/a
2003	340	n/a
2004	330	10
2005	310	20
2006	370	10
2007	580	[1]—
2008	610	10
2009	230	[1]—

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] Nil or negligible.

Notes: 1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.

2. The latest New Deal figures will be affected by the introduction of the new Jobseeker's Regime and Flexible New Deal (gradual implementation started from April 2009).

3. Westminster parliamentary constituency (post May 2005) is allocated using the Office for National Statistics Postcode Directory and customer's postcode.

4. The New Deal for Lone Parents was introduced in October 1998.

5. Data for New Deal for Partners are available from April 2004.

6. Latest Data are to August 2009.

7. Spells are not available for New Deal for Partners so individual level data are used instead. Spells are used for New Deal for Lone Parents.

Source

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate.

Over 2.2 million people have been helped into work through the New Deals, and we are building on the success of this programme to create the Flexible New Deal. This programme will better meet the employment and skills needs of those who have been on Jobseeker's Allowance for a long time or who have struggled to find a stable pattern of work.

Pension Credit: Kingston

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in *(a)* the Royal borough of Kingston and *(b)* Kingston and Surbiton constituency have been in receipt of pension credit in each of the last three years. [318040]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is in the following tables:

Recipients of pension credit in Kingston upon Thames, local authority

As at August each year	*Household recipients*	*Individual beneficiaries*
2009	4,090	4,780
2008	3,990	4,660
2007	4,020	4,710

Recipients of pension credit in Kingston and Surbiton parliamentary constituency

As at August each year	*Household recipients*	*Individual beneficiaries*
2009	3,180	3,710
2008	3,090	3,600
2007	3,140	3,670

Notes:

1. Numbers rounded to the nearest ten.

2. Pension credit is claimed on a household basis—household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a partner. Beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are also claiming.

3. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant Office for National Statistics postcode directory.

4. On April 1 2009 structural changes to the local authorities of England took effect. Changes are reflected from May 2009 in the Tabulation Tool.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Pensioners: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department has spent on pensioners per capita in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and (d) the UK in each year since 1997. [313339]

Angela Eagle: Complete information is not available. Such information as is available is in the tables.

Pensioner spending per capita (£, cash)

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Jarrow	5,060	5,480	5,870	6,190	6,290	6,630	6,910
South Tyneside	5,080	5,530	5,890	6,210	6,330	6,660	7,010
North East	4,960	5,350	5,700	6,000	6,110	6,430	6,770
Great Britain	4,680	5,020	5,320	5,610	5,700	6,000	6,320

Pensioner spending per capita (£, 2009-10 prices)

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Jarrow	6,030	6,360	6,620	6,850	6,770	6,930	7,050
South Tyneside	6,060	6,410	6,650	6,880	6,810	6,970	7,150
North East	5,910	6,200	6,430	6,650	6,570	6,720	6,910
Great Britain	5,580	5,820	6,010	6,220	6,140	6,280	6,450

Notes:

1. The Department for Work and Pensions is responsible for expenditure in Great Britain only. Expenditure in Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Office.

2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10.

3. Figures include spending on: state pension; attendance allowance; winter fuel payment; bereavement benefits; widow's benefit; minimum income guarantee; pension credit, over-65s payment and over-70s payment. figures for other benefits, and for these benefits before 2002-03, are not available.

4. Figures are estimated by dividing expenditure on the above benefits by the number of state pensioners in the relevant area.

5. Great Britain benefit expenditure data for all benefits, and local authority and parliamentary constituency benefit expenditure data for some benefits, can be found here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

6. The DWP Tabulation Tool, which gives caseload and expenditure data for some benefits split by local authority, parliamentary constituency and Government office

region, among others, can be found here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of pensioners receive earnings-related state pensions under *(a)* the state earnings-related pension scheme only, *(b)* the state second pension scheme only and *(c)* both schemes. [317177]

Angela Eagle: The information is in the table

Pensioners in receipt of additional state pension (Great Britain, March 2009)

	State earnings-related pension scheme (SERPS) only	*State second pension (S2P) only*	*Both SERPS and S2P*
Number of pensioners in receipt	6,491,000	144,900	1,838,000
Percentage of total number of recipients of any state pension	59	1	17

Notes:
1. Figures shown are for March 2009.
2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100 pensioners. Percentages are rounded to the nearest percent. Note the denominator used in the percentages is total state pension caseload in Great Britain, rather than total population in Great Britain at or above state pension age.
3. The state second pension (S2P) scheme reformed the state earnings-related pension scheme (SERPS) from April 2002. Only people reaching state pension age from April 2003 onwards can have built up some entitlement to S2P.
4. Pensioners in receipt of additional pension under the S2P scheme but not under SERPS were either credited into S2P through caring or disability, or are receiving an S2P top-up on account of contracted-out employment.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, administrative data 5 per cent. sample

Post Office Card Account

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the estimated cost to her Department is per transaction of Post Office Card Account transactions under *(a)* the new Post Office Card Account due to be introduced in 2010 and *(b)* each other benefit transaction method. [317181]

Helen Goodman: The new Post Office card account contract began on 1 October 2009 and the current average cost to the Department for each payment made into a POca is around 50p.

Other payment method costs are: 1p per payment into a bank or other account; £2.00 per cheque; and 55p per payable order.

The costs are made up of contract costs and where appropriate, other costs such as postage, stationery and administration.

Social Security Benefits: Students

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate she has made of the average annual cost of implementing amended deemed income rules to provide for income from student loans to be disregarded in respect of the entitlement to benefits of those students who suspend their studies because of serious ill health; [311602]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of students who would be affected by the amendment of the deemed income rules to provide for income from student loans to be disregarded in respect of the eligibility for benefits of those students who suspend their studies because of serious ill health. [311606]

Helen Goodman: We are looking with colleagues in other Departments at the position for students who suspend their studies because of serious ill health and who, as a result, have not drawn down their student loan. I will also explore with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, education providers and students' representative bodies, whether we can strengthen the awareness and transparency of the current arrangements.

Information on the number of students that might be affected by such a change to the deeming rules for those who abandon their course is not available as it would depend on the detailed conditions that were set.

Unemployment Benefits

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if she will publish each version of the sanctions regime applicable to *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit, *(c)* employment and support allowance and *(d)* income support which has been in effect for any period since 1997; [313077]

(2) what assessments her Department has made of the effectiveness of alternative sanctions regimes; and if she will publish the reports of those assessments; [313079]

(3) what changes she plans to make to the Jobcentre Plus sanctions regime; [313080]

(4) if she will publish each evaluation her Department has made of the effectiveness of the Jobcentre Plus sanctions regime. [313081]

Jim Knight: Benefit sanctions are aimed at establishing a framework of rights and responsibilities with benefit customers, and encourage positive outcomes by obliging customers in receipt of working age benefits to engage with the support on offer and help them move into employment.

Benefit sanctions have been an integral part of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) since it was introduced and the detail is set out in the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations 1996.

Since April 2000 the sanction regulations for Incapacity Benefit customers have been set out in various Work Focused Interviews (WFI) regulations: The Social Security (Work-focused Interviews) Regulations 2000 No. 897; The Social Security (Jobcentre Plus Interviews) Regulations 2001 No. 3210; The Social Security (Jobcentre Plus Interviews) Regulations 2002 No. 1703; The Social Security (Incapacity Benefit Work-focused Interviews) Regulations 2003 No. 2439; and The Social Security (Incapacity Benefit Work-focused Interviews) Regulations 2008 No. 2928, Regulation 9.

The sanctions regime for Employment and Support Allowance customers is set out in The Employment and Support Allowance Regulations 2008 No. 794, Regulation 63.

The Income Support sanction regime was introduced through the Social Security (Work-focused Interviews for Lone Parents) and Miscellaneous Amendments Regulations 2000; The Social Security (Jobcentre Plus Interviews) Regulations 2001; and the Social Security (Jobcentre Plus) Regulations 2002 respectively. Copies of all of this legislation are available in the Library.

The Department continually reviews the effectiveness of conditionality and the associated sanctions regimes across all working age benefits and undertakes research on their effectiveness in supporting customers to move into employment. Published reports on the operation of sanctions are listed on the Department for Work and Pensions website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rrs-index.asp

and are available in the House Library.

The 2008 White Paper 'Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future' (CM7506), set out the Government's intention to test a model of escalating sanctions based on the principles set out in the 2008 independent review of conditionality 'Realising Potential: A vision for personalised conditionality and support' by Professor Paul Gregg. The model introduces five stages of sanctions, initially in Progression to Work pathfinder areas, which will allow for more attempts at contact and in depth case reviews with lone parents and partners of certain benefit recipients, and a number of stages before a financial sanction is considered.

Furthermore, the Welfare Reform Act 2009 introduced two new sanctions to the Jobseeker's Allowance. The first is the power to sanction a customer who commits acts of violence or threatening behaviour against Jobcentre Plus staff during the course of a claim for Jobseeker's Allowance. The second is a sanction for Jobseeker's Allowance customers who fail to attend their mandatory appointments as part of the requirements of receiving Jobseeker's Allowance, this change will be implemented from April 2010.

The Welfare Reform Act 2009 also introduced the power to sanction lone parents on Income Support and partners of certain benefit recipients, with younger children, for not undertaking agreed work related activity. The first stage of implementation for these measures will be in October 2010 in the Progression to Work pathfinder Jobcentre Plus districts.

As part of the ongoing review of support for Jobcentre Plus customers with disabilities and health conditions, we are reviewing the current sanctions regime for Employment and Support Allowance customers and we will publish details about any proposed changes in spring 2010.

Unemployment Benefits: Appeals

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department has spent on contesting employment support allowance appeals in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland since 27 October 2008. [317756]

Jonathan Shaw: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Unemployment Benefits: Cancer

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many terminally ill cancer patients *(a)* in total and *(b)* normally resident in Scotland have been required by her Department to (i) undergo a medical examination and (ii) attend a work-focused interview since 27 October 2008. [317752]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not available.

Unemployment Benefits: Glasgow East

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals are in receipt of *(a)* attendance allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* jobseeker's allowance in Glasgow East constituency; and what the average weekly payment was in respect of each such benefit in the latest period for which figures are available. [317248]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table.

Attendance allowance, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and jobseeker's allowance claimants in Glasgow East parliamentary constituency: May 2009

	Caseload	*Average weekly amount (£)*
Attendance Allowance	3,380	61.34
Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance	8,920	53.75
Jobseeker's Allowance	3,510	57.83

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and average amounts to the nearest penny.
2. Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance figures do not include employment and support allowance.
3. Attendance allowance totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example, if they are in hospital.
4. Data is published on the Department for Work and Pensions' website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Unemployment Benefits: Medical Examinations

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints *(a)* in total and *(b)* from residents of Scotland regarding fitness to work assessments her Department has received since 27 October 2008. [317754]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on the number of complaints received by the Department specifically about the work capability assessment element of employment and support allowance is not available.

Vocational Training: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her latest assessment is of the adequacy of skills training on offer to claimants of Incapacity Benefit and Employment and Support Allowance; and for what reason claimants of Incapacity Benefit and

Employment and Support Allowance are not able to access Train to Gain if they have more than four GCSEs or NVQ Level 2. [315694]

Jonathan Shaw: It is the role of Jobcentre Plus to work with all customers and help them overcome any barrier to getting into work. Where this involves meeting a skills need, a customer, including one in receipt of either incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance, can be referred to a range of training provision provided by either Jobcentre Plus or the Learning and Skills Council.

There is a wide range of training provision on offer throughout the country for all customers, including those in receipt of incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance. Customer training needs are assessed on an individual basis and customers are then referred to provision that not only meets their needs but also the needs of local employers. The adequacy of skills training is therefore not assessed on a national basis but is driven by the local labour market and an assessment of the individual's needs.

The primary national return to work programme for people claiming incapacity benefits or employment and support allowance is Pathways to Work. In Pathways to Work areas, private and voluntary sector providers are contracted to tailor provision to meet the needs of the customer. It is their responsibility to ensure that any training is adequate and appropriate.

Last October we announced a review of Pathways to Work. The White Paper, 'Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment', published in December, set out our underpinning principles for reform and confirms that we will bring forward proposals in the spring.

Train to Gain is not routinely offered to those on benefits. It is a programme aimed specifically at employers, giving them better access to a range of training opportunities for improving the skills of their employees and the productivity of their business.

Over the last few years, to boost demand and respond to the downturn the Government introduced a number of temporary funding flexibilities for qualifications delivered as part of Train to Gain. Until August 2010, this includes providing full funding in respect of full level 2 qualifications (5 A*-C GCSEs or the vocational equivalent) where the employee already holds a qualification at that level.

The National Skills Strategy Skills for Growth (November 2009), set out the Government's intention to focus their substantial investment through Train to Gain on areas of high growth and ensure a greater level of co-funding by employers. The emphasis will therefore be on fully supporting employers to upskill their employees, with employers contributing the costs where their staff need to reskill.

Winter Fuel Payments

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether her Department has made an estimate of the cost in real terms of extending the winter fuel payment to people *(a)* receiving the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance and *(b)* receiving the higher rate care component of disability living allowance because they are terminally ill, who otherwise would not be entitled to it, in each of the next six years; and if she will make a statement; [316495]

(2) if she will estimate the cost to the public purse in real terms of paying winter fuel allowance in respect of all children aged under five years old in receipt of the higher care component of disability living allowance in each of the next five years. [316496]

Jonathan Shaw: It is not possible to identify these costs as it is not possible to identify disability living allowance customers who would not be entitled to a winter fuel payment because they are living in households that already receive a winter fuel payment.

Disability living allowance is specifically designed to help meet the extra costs of disability, including heating.

Winter Fuel Payments: Rotherham

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been paid out in winter fuel payments to eligible households in Rotherham in winter 2009-10. [317109]

Angela Eagle: For winter 2008-09 (the last winter for which information is available) we spent £3.4 million on Winter Fuel Payments in Rotherham.

Notes:

1. Expenditure figures are rounded to the nearest £0.1 million
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant Office for National Statistics postcode directory.

Winter Fuel Payments: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of householders in Stroud constituency who will receive *(a)* £250 and *(b)* £400 winter fuel payment in 2009-10. [317086]

Angela Eagle: Information on the number of households in Stroud which received winter fuel payments for winter 2008-09 (the last year for which information is available) is in the House of Commons Library.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Stroud constituency are in receipt of winter fuel allowance; and how much her Department paid to such pensioners in winter fuel allowances in 2009. [317087]

Angela Eagle: In winter 2008-09 (the last winter for which information is available) 25,540 people in Stroud received a winter fuel payment, at a cost of £5.4 million.

Notes:

1. Payment figures are rounded to the nearest ten
2. Expenditure figures are rounded to the nearest £0.1 million
3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant Office for National Statistics postcode directory.

JUSTICE

Drugs: Sussex

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 618W, on drugs: Sussex, how many people were found guilty of offences of drug *(a)* possession and *(b)* dealing in (i) Sussex and (ii) Lewes constituency in 2008. [317036]

Claire Ward: The number of persons found guilty at all courts in the Sussex police force area for offences of possession, and supplying or offering to supply, a controlled drug in 2008 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Data are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication in the autumn, 2010.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts in the Sussex police force area for offences of possession, and supplying or offering to supply, a controlled drug. 2008[1, 2]

Offence description	*2008*
Having possession of a controlled drug	752
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply	165
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug	107

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Family Conciliation Services

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent representations he has received from agencies involved in child contact cases of the effects on children of compulsory mediation in such cases; and if he will make a statement; [318043]

(2) what estimate he has made the total savings to the public purse likely to accrue from the implementation of compulsory mediation as an alternative to court action in child contact cases. [318044]

Bridget Prentice: I have not received any representations regarding the effects on children of compulsory mediation in child contact cases. Family mediation in England and Wales is voluntary and I have not made any estimate of savings from the implementation of compulsory mediation.

On 20 January 2010, the Green Paper, Support For All: The Families and Relationships Green Paper, was published. Family mediation forms part of the consultation process as the Government are seeking views about whether mediation assessment (not mediation in its entirety) should be made compulsory for parents who go to court to seek to resolve residence or contact disputes, where it is safe to do so.

At the same time, the Government announced a comprehensive review of the family justice system, which will report jointly to the Secretaries of State for Justice and Children, Schools and Families and the Welsh Assembly Government. The principle that 'the interests of the child should be paramount' will be at the heart of this review. The review will focus on the management and leadership of the family justice system and what can be done to promote informed settlement and agreement of family law cases outside of the court system. It will seek to learn from the experience of other jurisdictions and from research and will be supported by the appointment of an expert, external advisory group. The review will report in 2011.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many cases involving a child contact decision a court has granted contact against the wishes of the child subject to that decision in each of the last five years. [318050]

Bridget Prentice: Her Majesty's Courts Service does not record any information centrally on whether a court granted contact against the wishes of the child. Information on the wishes of the child could be obtained by inspection of individual case files only at disproportionate cost.

HMCS does record the total number of contact orders made. Table 1 shows the number of public and private law section 8 contact orders made in all tiers of court between the years of 2004 and 2008. 2008 is the latest full calendar year for which data are published. Statistics on contact orders made are published by the Ministry of Justice in the annual command paper "Judicial and Court Statistics", copies of which are available in the Library of the House and on the Ministry's website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/judicialandcourtstatistics.htm

Table 1: Section 8 public and private law contact orders made in all tiers of court between 2004 and 2008

	Public	*Private*	*Total*
2008	2,568	76,759	79,327
2007	2,471	69,713	72,184
2006	1,848	62,672	64,520
2005	1,562	60,294	61,856
2004	2,045	70,169	72,214

Notes:

1. Figures presented are for England and Wales only.
2. Figures relate to the number of children subject to each application.
3. All tiers of court are represented in the answer; specifically the Family Proceedings Court, county court and High Court.
4. There are known data quality problems with the figures for the Family Proceedings Courts. A new data collection method, introduced in April 2007, has made some improvements to the completeness of the data.
5. Section 8 is the part of the Children Act 1989 that refers to contact orders, residence orders, prohibited steps orders and specific issue orders.
6. Public Law refers to Children Act 1989 cases where there are child welfare issues and a local authority, or an authorised person, is stepping in to protect the child and ensure they get the care they need.
7. Private Law refers to Children Act 1989 cases where two or more parties are trying to resolve a private dispute. This is commonly where parents have split up and there is a disagreement about contact with, or residence of, their children.
8. Due to changes in methodology and data collection methods over time, comparisons between years should be avoided.

Source:

Judicial and Court Statistics

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the human resources department of the National Offender Management Service is taking to redress the imbalance in the terms and conditions of staff in the prison and probation services. [312572]

Maria Eagle: The prison and probation services operate within the framework of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Agency. For historical reasons the two services have different employment structures. Prison service staff are civil servants and are directly employed by the NOMS Agency. Probation service staff are not civil servants and are employed by a probation board or trust. It is recognised that there is a difference in the operational need of both services. This is reflected in their terms and conditions and different operational structures. Terms and conditions are kept under review in developing pay modernisation strategies for both services.

Paedophilia

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convicted paedophiles there were in bail hostels in each of the last five years; and what his most recent estimate is of the number of convicted paedophiles in bail hostels. [318526]

Maria Eagle: The number of child sex offenders accommodated in approved premises (formerly known as probation and bail hostels) in England and Wales will vary from time to time. Statistical information about the offending history of offenders residing in approved premises at any one time is not collected centrally, although offenders' assessed level of risk of harm at the point of admission is.

Approved premises provide for enhanced and effective supervision of certain offenders. This would be much more difficult to achieve if such offenders were dispersed into less suitable accommodation in the community.

Prison Sentences

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* UK, *(b)* Irish and *(c)* other European economic area nationals are serving a sentence of (i) mandatory life imprisonment, (ii) discretionary life imprisonment and (iii) imprisonment for public protection. [318048]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the numbers of British, Irish and other EEA nationals serving mandatory life sentences, other life sentences (including discretionary life imprisonment) and indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPP) in prison establishments in England and Wales as at 30 June 2009. These are the latest available data.

	British nationals	*Irish nationals*	*Other EEA nationals*
Mandatory lifers	4,381	55	67
Other lifers	2,263	24	12
IPPs	4,882	38	63

The figures on mandatory and other lifers have been drawn from the prison IT system. The IPP figures were taken from the Public Protection Unit Database (PPUD) in the National Offender Management Service. The PPUD is a live database, updated on a regular basis. Data taken from the database on consecutive days will contain differences reflecting updates.

Both the prison IT system and the PPUD are administrative systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoner Escapes

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many abscondees from each prison were foreign nationals in each year since 1997. [317636]

Maria Eagle: Figures on the number of foreign national prisoners who have absconded from each prison since 1997 are not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by accessing the individual record of each absconder.

A prisoner absconds if he or she absents themselves from prison without overcoming a physical security barrier such as that provided by fences, locks, bolts and bars, a secure vehicle or handcuffs. The rate of abscond from open prisons continues to fall and absconds are now at their lowest level since centralised reporting of this type of incident began in 1995.

Foreign nationals, including those subject to enforcement proceedings under the Immigration Act, must be risk assessed for open conditions in the same way as all other prisoners but with the additional requirement that the UK Border Agency is asked to contribute any information which might indicate an increased risk of abscond.

Prisoners

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has implemented programmes for the purposes of de-radicalising prisoners who are serving sentences for terrorism offences. [317014]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is taking forward a wide-ranging programme of work to manage the risks of violent extremism and radicalisation among offenders. Part of this programme includes work to research, develop and evaluate potential intervention approaches.

Given the comparatively low numbers of terrorist offenders and the different motivations and behaviours they present in relation to their offending, it is difficult to identify with statistical significance and reliability factors associated with terrorist offending or reoffending. Therefore prison and probation staff need to use all available sources of evidence to assess the risk of serious harm or reconviction which terrorist offenders pose, and to identify appropriate intervention strategies.

For any intervention to be effective it will need to target the reasons why people offend which are different for each individual. There are currently no group work programmes specifically accredited for use with those convicted of offences related to terrorism. NOMS is working to understand the potential use of a wide range of intervention strategies which may help combat violent extremist offending and address the criminogenic factors of the individual violent extremist offender.

Prisoners' Discharge Grants

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on subsistence payments to offenders on end of custody licence in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [317125]

Mr. Straw: The available information on the subsistence payments to offenders on end of custody licence in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10 is as follows:

	1 July to 31 March 2007-08	*2008-09*	*1 April to 30 September 2009-10*
Paid by DWP on behalf of the National Offender Management Service	859,199.74	2,270,140.29	1,363,313.05
Paid direct by prison establishments	2,405,446.00		74,292.17

Prisoners released on End of Custody Licence, ECL, are paid subsistence in place of benefits. This subsistence payment is necessary to ensure that during their period of ECL they are able to purchase food and meet essential living expenses. Sentenced prisoners known to have over £500 in personal funds do not receive any subsistence payments.

When the ECL scheme was first introduced, offenders released for the maximum of 18 days received their subsistence payments in instalments through the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), which made payments on behalf of the Ministry of Justice. Prisoners released for less than 18 days were paid in full by prisons on release. From 23 June 2008, payment in instalments by DWP was extended to prisoners spending 15 days or more on ECL. From 15 December 2008, payment in instalments by DWP was further extended to offenders spending eight days or more on ECL. The advantage of the system of payments through DWP is that prisoners receive their subsistence in instalments rather than in a single lump sum.

It is not possible to break down the amount paid directly by prison establishments between 2007-08 and 2008-09. The available information has been collected manually from all prison establishments and may be subject to a margin of error. In addition, figures for payments by prisons in January-March 2009 cannot be identified and an estimated element has been included for these.

Prisoners Release: Reoffenders

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 792W, on prisons: release, how many of the 12 serving ex-prisoners who have not been back into the criminal justice system since their release in error have committed further offences; what the original offence was for which each was convicted; and what proportion of the original sentence each had served at the date of release. [318052]

Maria Eagle: Only one of the 12 offenders listed as follows is shown on the police national computer as having committed a further offence (theft/fraud) or is wanted for anything other than the release in error.

Prisoner discharge can be a complex area and the following table and associated notes reflect this complexity. Despite this the number of releases in error is small, accounting for fewer than 0.05 per cent. of discharges from prison.

The following table shows the details of the 12 offenders who had not been accounted for at the time of my answer of 11 January 2010. Since then, four of these 12 offenders have been returned to custody or have appeared in court and resolved the outstanding issue.

Individual offenders released in error according to offence and proportion of sentence served at time of release

Offence	*Proportion of sentence served (percentage)*
Drug Production	[1]100
Other Motoring	[1]100
Breach of Bail	[2]100
Wounding	41
Fine Default	50
Fine Default	50
Burglary	[3]n/a
Breach Community Service Order	n/a
Fine Default	[4]100
Wounding	[4]98
Common Assault	[4]100
Theft	[4, 5, 6]n/a

[1] Served all of sentence but released in error because offenders were due to be interviewed by another law enforcement agency.

[2] Served all of sentence but released in error because offender was due to appear in court on further charges.

[3] Sentence length not applicable—remand prisoner released in error prior to trial.

[4] Four offenders have since appeared in court or been returned to custody to resolve the outstanding error.

[5] Served all of current sentence but released in error because he had, prior to the current sentence, served a previous period in prison. He had been released on licence to serve the remainder of that earlier sentence in the community. While he was serving his second sentence it had been decided that he should serve some or all of the remaining period of the earlier sentence in prison. He was released in error before that could happen. The additional period he could have served would have been subject to the view of the Parole Board. That period could have been up to a maximum of a further one year and one day.

[6] Committed further offence of theft/fraud since release in error but is now back in custody.

These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Prisons: Construction

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in what locations his Department intends to provide the 3,500 further prison places announced for 2010; how many will be *(a)* part of new-build prisons, *(b)* additions to existing prisons and *(c)* refurbished disused cells in existing prisons; and how many will have been brought on stream at the end of each month in 2010. [318053]

Maria Eagle: In total, over 3,600 places are currently planned for delivery in 2010 as part of the Core Capacity Programme. Over 500 of these places have been provided through the more efficient use of cellular accommodation.

The following table shows the locations of the new places to be provided in new prisons, expansions on existing sites and through cell reclaim schemes:

	Location	*Places*	*Accommodation type*
Littlehey[1]	Cambridgeshire	480	New build
Swaleside[1]	Kent	176	Expansion
Wymott[1]	Lancashire	16	Cell reclaim
Lowdham Grange	Nottinghamshire	260	Expansion
Exeter	Devon	8	Cell reclaim
Holme House	Cleveland	180	Expansion
Nottingham	Nottinghamshire	344	Expansion
Birmingham	West Midlands	10	Cell reclaim
Bure	Norfolk	264	Conversion[2]
Hollesley Bay	Suffolk	20	Cell reclaim
Elmley	Kent	190	Expansion
Feltham	London	34	Cell reclaim
Isis	London	480	New build
Moorland	South Yorkshire	23	Cell reclaim
Wealstun	West Yorkshire	300	Conversion[3]
Buckley Hall	Lancashire	60	Expansion
Parc	South Wales	330	Expansion

[1] Already delivered.

[2] Final phase of opening of new prison Bure. Not new build but a conversion of the former RAF Coltishall.

[3] Places created through conversion of open accommodation to closed conditions.

The following table shows how many of these places are currently planned for delivery in each month in 2010. The number of places delivered in each month may be subject to change.

	Number of places
January	672
February	268
March	534
April	284
May	224
June	0
July	480
August	23
September	0
October	300
November	60
December	330

Terrorism: Compensation

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the retrospective provision of financial support to British citizens who have been subject to terrorist acts overseas. [318203]

Claire Ward: The Government have tabled amendments to the Crime and Security Bill to establish a Victims of Overseas Terrorism Compensation scheme. This will be a forward looking scheme. In accordance with the long standing general principle that the Government and Parliament do not legislate retrospectively, the new scheme will only apply to designated terrorist attacks that take place on or after 18 January 2010 (that is, the date on which the scheme was announced). However, we appreciate that there will be victims of overseas terrorist attacks in recent years who continue to face hardship as a result of the on-going consequences of a disability arising from injuries sustained in such an attack. In recognition of this, the Government have announced plans to provide financial assistance to eligible victims of overseas terrorist attacks since 1 January 2002 who are in such a position. Although separate from the Victims of Overseas Terrorism Compensation scheme, the introduction of these non-statutory arrangements is subject to the passage of the provisions in the Crime and Security Bill.

Further details will be announced shortly.

Victim Support: Hounslow

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding has been allocated to victim support in the Hounslow constabulary area in each year since 1996. [316688]

Claire Ward: Prior to 2001 records of specific allocation of how Victim Support decided to allocate Government funding, broken down into areas, is not available. The following table gives the detail of the allocation of Government funding to Hounslow from 2001 to date. In 2004-05, Hounslow joined the Middlesex region and London thereafter in 2008-09.

	Victim Support region	*Funding allocated to Hounslow (£)*	*Total government funding to Victim Support (£ million)*
1996-97	Hounslow and Feltham	n/a	11.7
1997-98	Hounslow and Feltham	n/a	12.7
1998-99	Hounslow and Feltham	n/a	12.7
1999-2000	Hounslow and Feltham	n/a	17.5
2000-01	Hounslow and Feltham	28,803	18.6
2001-02	Hounslow and Feltham	65,159	25.1
2002-03	Hounslow including Brentford, Greenford and Southall	121,274	29.3
2003-04	Hounslow including Brentford, Greenford and Southall	123,532	30
2004-05	Middlesex	229,637	30
2005-06	Middlesex	229,637	30
2006-07	Middlesex	227,137	30
2007-08	Middlesex	227,137	35.8
2008-09	London	5,087,796	37

n/a = Not available

Young Offenders

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offenders received remand decisions of *(a)* conditional bail, *(b)* unconditional bail, *(c)* local authority accommodation and *(d)* custody in each youth offending team area in the last six month period for which figures are available. [317575]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the number of remand decisions of *(a)* conditional bail, *(b)* unconditional bail, *(c)* local authority accommodation and *(d)* custody in each youth offending team area during the six-month period from October 2008 to March 2009.

The data have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board and have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time. Differences in counting rules may mean that figures from other databases are not directly comparable.

Remands of young people under 18, October 2008 to March 2009

	Conditional bail (including ISSP[1])	*Unconditional bail*	*Remand to local authority accommodation*	*Court-ordered secure remand*	*Remand in custody*
Barking and Dagenham	72	88	5	2	17
Barnet	42	41	1	0	10
Barnsley	29	50	1	0	5
Bath and North East Somerset	19	62	0	1	4
Bedfordshire	83	117	1	1	19
Bexley	45	52	1	3	4
Birmingham	288	626	22	10	96
Blackburn with Darwen	51	87	6	0	8
Blackpool	105	136	8	4	15
Blaenau, Gwent and Caerphilly	27	93	1	2	6
Bolton	60	178	0	3	27
Bournemouth and Poole	40	119	1	0	5
Bracknell Forest	18	48	0	0	7
Bradford	196	277	5	2	45
Brent	117	127	11	10	43
Bridgend	13	42	1	0	4
Brighton and Hove	27	63	2	2	6
Bristol	135	160	0	8	39
Bromley	73	102	2	4	16
Buckinghamshire	33	103	0	0	11
Bury	40	64	0	1	7
Calderdale	42	83	2	2	18
Cambridgeshire	80	92	5	2	18
Camden	83	100	0	2	16
Cardiff	138	132	4	1	21
Carmarthenshire	36	33	0	0	5
Ceredigion	8	17	0	0	1
Cheshire	84	121	0	0	19
Conwy and Denbighshire	57	84	1	0	6
Cornwall	40	58	2	0	5
Coventry	87	162	2	0	29
Croydon	106	174	4	0	20
Cumbria	36	85	5	0	9
Darlington	11	53	0	0	2
Derby	87	124	2	5	10
Derbyshire	102	251	5	3	13
Devon	50	203	3	1	14
Doncaster	45	114	2	1	13
Dorset	32	72	0	0	3
Dudley	51	70	3	0	13
Durham	62	234	1	0	10
Ealing	84	73	1	5	30
East Riding of Yorkshire	24	82	0	0	3
East Sussex	52	168	2	3	17
Enfield	97	110	4	4	14
Essex	121	272	4	1	23
Flintshire	37	22	1	0	0
Gateshead	18	5	0	3	4
Gloucestershire	64	154	1	3	10
Greenwich	94	82	5	3	27
Gwynedd Mon	33	11	6	0	2
Hackney	101	118	2	4	35
Halton and Warrington	50	71	3	3	10
Hammersmith and Fulham	66	70	1	1	6

Remands of young people under 18, October 2008 to March 2009

	Conditional bail (including ISSP[1])	Unconditional bail	Remand to local authority accommodation	Court-ordered secure remand	Remand in custody
Haringey	81	104	1	2	12
Harrow	52	73	3	5	8
Hartlepool	26	59	3	0	5
Havering	37	38	7	0	6
Hertfordshire	111	229	6	0	20
Hillingdon	46	96	1	2	13
Hounslow	73	79	1	2	23
Islington	64	116	1	2	14
Kensington and Chelsea	56	45	2	2	12
Kent	292	309	14	4	36
Kingston-upon-Hull	104	119	5	3	18
Kingston-upon-Thames	23	52	0	3	5
Kirklees	114	300	8	4	16
Knowsley	56	69	0	2	10
Lambeth	103	150	2	0	39
Lancashire	171	145	9	7	37
Leeds	335	428	16	12	64
Leicester City	65	173	4	3	13
Leicestershire	43	121	3	3	8
Lewisham	151	122	7	5	38
Lincolnshire	72	140	4	2	10
Liverpool	153	281	3	4	27
Luton	64	81	0	0	6
Manchester	194	386	0	9	66
Medway	47	83	2	2	13
Merthyr Tydfil	33	24	1	0	4
Merton	38	67	0	0	5
Milton Keynes	50	100	5	0	9
Monmouthshire and Torfaen	11	70	0	0	0
Neath Port Talbot	15	50	0	1	3
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	75	214	1	0	18
Newham	75	101	4	5	40
Newport	41	86	0	2	3
Norfolk	103	246	3	3	11
North East Lincolnshire	96	105	22	3	24
North Lincolnshire	49	80	13	4	21
North Somerset	34	35	9	1	8
North Tyneside	64	133	0	1	10
North Yorkshire	77	148	8	0	11
Northamptonshire	210	198	9	11	15
Northumberland	82	188	0	0	8
Nottingham	102	225	13	1	41
Nottinghamshire	66	196	4	4	10
Oldham	77	139	2	5	8
Oxfordshire	49	118	5	2	15
Pembrokeshire	22	23	2	1	4
Peterborough	50	74	0	2	13
Plymouth	43	133	0	0	7
Powys	8	29	0	0	0
Reading	39	83	0	0	9
Redbridge	75	47	3	0	12
Rhondda Cynon Taff	45	75	3	2	6
Richmond-upon-Thames	21	12	0	0	4
Rochdale	67	159	2	0	18
Rotherham	52	103	2	4	9
Salford	62	113	2	0	15
Sandwell	87	112	4	2	22
Sefton	50	50	0	0	12
Sheffield	134	174	5	9	35
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin	66	100	2	0	7
Slough	54	81	0	0	11
Solihull	18	38	0	0	9
Somerset	46	68	3	1	7

Remands of young people under 18, October 2008 to March 2009

	Conditional bail (including ISSP[1])	Unconditional bail	Remand to local authority accommodation	Court-ordered secure remand	Remand in custody
South Gloucestershire	28	78	0	0	5
South Tees	83	144	2	3	17
South Tyneside	61	139	3	0	6
Southend-on-Sea	48	52	0	0	7
Southwark	115	142	1	5	29
St. Helens	62	79	0	2	17
Staffordshire	91	201	5	1	13
Stockport	25	78	0	0	6
Stockton-on-Tees	25	58	0	0	3
Stoke-on-Trent	66	161	3	3	11
Suffolk	68	167	2	1	9
Sunderland	34	189	0	0	3
Surrey	71	158	1	2	12
Sutton	36	49	0	1	3
Swansea	52	62	0	1	3
Swindon	86	119	4	1	2
Tameside	61	87	0	0	10
Thurrock	39	47	2	1	10
Torbay	11	46	2	1	2
Tower Hamlets and City of London	90	75	2	2	14
Trafford	57	86	0	0	20
Vale of Glamorgan	46	49	2	4	4
Wakefield	67	101	2	0	8
Walsall	48	100	6	1	12
Waltham Forest	95	86	1	1	22
Wandsworth	133	96	6	11	21
Warwickshire	56	103	2	2	5
Wessex	365	742	34	16	82
West Berkshire	18	49	0	0	2
West Sussex	64	221	1	5	15
Westminster	60	38	2	0	6
Wigan	37	98	3	0	11
Wiltshire	67	81	1	0	4
Windsor and Maidenhead	2	30	1	0	3
Wirral	54	86	0	7	9
Wokingham	15	44	0	0	0
Wolverhampton	62	148	6	1	12
Worcestershire and Herefordshire	122	237	8	4	13
Wrexham	39	49	3	2	9
York	53	61	0	0	10

[1] Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme.

Source:
Data provided by YJB

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Energy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the estimated *(a)* amount and *(b)* cost was of energy used in his Department and its agencies in each year since 1997; what proportion of the energy used was generated from renewable sources in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [317230]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is contained in the following tables.

Northern Ireland Office Core

	Total energy Kwh	Total cost (£)	Percentage of electricity purchased generated from renewable sources	Biomass Kwh
2004-05	4,216,520	174,877	12	0
2005-06	5,625,286	253,901	19	0
2006-07	4,852,080	309,608	17	0
2007-08	5,660,863	347,854	18	0
2008-09	3,446,157	377,179	16	43,200

Public Prosecution Service

	Total energy usage	
	Kwlh	£
2004-05	174,9371	122,620
2005-06	2,082,376	190,063
2006-07	3,024,459	281,620
2007-08	3,276,114	341,330
2008-09	3,281,271	303,600

Crown Solicitor's Office

	Total energy usage	
	Fuel (Oil) (£)	Electric (£)
2004-05	9,453	10,774
2005-06	5,535	6,366
2006-07	11,441	16,506
2007-08	6,696	9,071
2008-09	19,595	13,065

Northern Ireland Prison Service

	Total Kwlh	Total (£)	Percentage green electricity	Total renewable
2004-05	42,610,301	2,134,684	15	4.1
2005-06	55,708,772	2,530,790	20	4.4
2006-07	58,238,073	2,941,982	20	4.4
2007-08	58,631,316	3,169,019	20	4.5
2008-09	60,377,730	4,273,141	100	23.0

Forensic Science Northern Ireland

	Total energy usage	
	Kwlh	£
2006-07	2,048,872	98,892
2007-08	1,999,447	92,285
2008-09	2,325,183	139,595

Youth Justice Agency

	Total energy usage	
	Kwlh	£
2004-05		206,525
2005-06		246,966
2006-07		359,759
2007-08		255,494
2008-09		380,590

The Compensation Agency's best estimate is that the energy costs since 1997 directly paid have been £10,000 per annum.

Weapons

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning to publish an inventory of decommissioned terrorist weapons, explosives and materials. [318274]

Paul Goggins: The decommissioning arrangements ended in the United Kingdom on 9 February 2010 and end in Ireland on 25 February 2010. The Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD) will shortly provide both Governments with a report on the decommissioning which has taken place in the last six months. I will place copies of that report in the Libraries of both Houses. I am discussing with the Irish Government and the IICD arrangements to conclude the work of the IICD.

DEFENCE

Defence Medical Services: Manpower

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1468W, on Defence Medical Services: manpower, when a copy of the October 2009 figures will be placed in the Library. [310002]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I apologise for the delay in responding to this question.

The latest available data are summarised in the following table:

Defence Medical Service Regulars: Manning as at 1 October 2009

	Requirement	Trained strength	Shortfall (percentage)
Medical officers	818	476	42
Nurses	1,900	1,500	21
Medical support services	4,083	3,882	5
Dental officers and allied dental healthcare professionals	777	764	2
Total	7,578	6,622	13

Notes:

1. Requirement excludes the manning and training margin.
2. Trained strength only includes personnel that are qualified in their speciality.
3. 'Medical support services' include the paramedics cadre.
4. Dental officers and allied dental healthcare professionals includes dental practitioners, dental support officers, dental surgery assistants and dental technicians.

It has been decided that detailed data will no longer be published where this would highlight potential pinch points within the armed forces, including the Defence Medical Services. I am withholding information on pinch points as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

In order to maintain appropriate external scrutiny of such data, the Department will continue to provide comprehensive restricted manning data to the House of Commons Defence Committee.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the proportion of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies managed out in the last five years who remain working in the public sector. [313843]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on urgent operational requirements in 2009-10. [314472]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have recently raised our 2009-10 Urgent Operational Requirements estimate to £936 million. The precise in-year spend will not be known until after the end of the financial year but we are currently forecasting that we will spend close to, but below, the estimate.

Nuclear Submarines: Decommissioning

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the total cost of the interim storage of laid-up submarines project. [318369]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave on 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 54W and on 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 418W.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent estimate he has made of the whole-life cost of the submarine dismantling project; [318412]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the submarine dismantling project in *(a)* Rosyth Dockyard and *(b)* Devonport Dockyard. [318413]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The project currently has approval to undertake a £14 million assessment phase due to complete in 2011. This will be followed by the demonstration phase, which will run from 2011 to 2013; costs for this phase have not yet been approved. Whole life cost figures will be developed as part of the preparation of the main gate business case, which is planned to be submitted for approval in 2013.

The development of the costs associated with different project options, including site options, will form a part of this work.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment his Department has made of the merits of using the site at Sellafield for the *(a)* submarine dismantling and *(b)* radioactive waste storage elements of the submarine dismantling project; [318414]

(2) what sites his Department is considering to use for the *(a)* submarine dismantling and *(b)* radioactive waste storage elements of the submarine dismantling project. [318415]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There are currently four regions where there are MOD or defence-related commercial sites that are likely to be considered for submarine dismantling project activities. These regions are Devon, Fife, Argyll and Bute and Berkshire. A number of briefings to elected representatives in these regions have already been carried out, including to the hon. Member, and others have been scheduled.

The project is at an early stage in the process to develop an effective public consultation and associated strategic environmental assessment. This work has included identification of existing nuclear sites, both defence and civil, that are technically capable of submarine dismantling or storing the resultant radioactive waste. At this stage, two sites have been identified that could be technically capable of carrying out dismantling activities and 12 sites have been identified that could be technically capable of carrying out waste storage. Technical capability is only one aspect and the wider suitability of sites has not yet been assessed.

Further analysis work is still required and, until the public consultation is complete, no decisions will be taken on sites for either submarine dismantling or waste storage. I am withholding details of the individual sites identified at this time, as the MOD intend to publish this information in the future as part of the planned public consultation and strategic environmental assessment.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the technical barriers to the *(a)* submarine dismantling and *(b)* radioactive waste storage elements of the submarine dismantling project. [318416]

Mr. Quentin Davies: No technical barriers have been identified that would prevent either submarine dismantling or radioactive waste storage from taking place. Most technical aspects of the work have already been demonstrated elsewhere, either in other industry sectors, particularly the civil nuclear sector, or through other countries' work on dismantling nuclear submarines.

We continue to work closely with a range of organisations, including both industry and Government, in the UK and elsewhere, to ensure that we develop appropriate technical solutions that are both safe and effective.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Overseas Aid

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent in each developing country on promoting good governance in 2009-10 to date; and how much it spent in (a) 2007-08 and (b) 2008-09. [317199]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) spent £688,453,000 in 2007-08 and £684,014,000 in 2008-09 bilaterally on promoting good governance. The figure for 2009-10 is not yet available.

DFID supports a broad definition of good governance and the above figures include funding for elections, civil society strengthening, security sector reform, post-conflict peace building, legal and judicial development, corruption and public sector financial management.

DFID bilateral spend by country, by sector and by year is available on DFID's website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Aid-Statistics/Statistics-on-International-Development-2009

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated to supporting Parliaments in developing countries in 2009-10 to date; and how much funding it allocated in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [317200]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports Parliaments in our partner countries as part of our overall support to governance. We do not track absolute values of support to Parliaments within this category. DFID bilateral aid for promoting good governance totalled £688,453,000 in 2007-08 and £684,014,000 2008-09. The figure for 2009-10 is not yet available.

Remittances

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 25 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 229-30W, on remittances, what information he sought from offices of his Department in African countries on remittance flows in the last quarter of 2009-10. [316927]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not independently compile data on remittances. We monitor trends in remittance flows using data compiled by the World Bank, which sources its information directly from Central Banks. Based on the information currently available, the World Bank is expecting remittance flows to Sub-Saharan Africa in 2009 to have remained stable at 2008 figures of $21 billion.

HEALTH

Blood

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provisions exist in the NHS blood and transplant contract in respect of the re-sale of blood and blood components by private hospitals; and on what date the contract entered into force. [317272]

Gillian Merron: The current NHS Blood and Transplant contract for the supply of blood to hospitals stipulates that blood components, whether purchased directly or on behalf of a third party, must not be sold on for a profit. This contract came into force on 1 April 2008, and runs until 31 March 2011. Current contractual arrangements allow hospitals to supply blood to other NHS or private hospitals and pass on the costs, provided no profit is made.

Crimes of Violence: Females

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated to his Department's taskforce on the health aspects of violence against women and girls in 2009-10. [316956]

Ann Keen: The Department has allocated approximately £335,000 to the taskforce on the health aspects of violence against women and girls in 2009-10. This funding has paid for a series of detailed focus groups to explore the experiences of women and children who are victims of violence and the national health service response, employment of staff, a literature review, publication of associated reports and ongoing support for the running of taskforce itself.

Health Protection Agency

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the consultants' reports on *(a)* the outline business cases for the Porton Down and Terlings Park options and *(b)* the preferred option analysis for the Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response Developments at Terlings Park or at Porton Down. [318206]

Gillian Merron: The documents to which the hon. Member refers have not been submitted to the Department.

The Department does not disclose business cases, such as this, which contain commercially sensitive information.

Health Protection Agency: Location

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are being made for the relocation of Health Protection Agency staff and activities from Newcastle General Hospital, Newcastle; and how many such *(a)* staff and *(b)* activities have so far been relocated and to each site. [318000]

Gillian Merron: The Health Protection Agency's (HPA's) clinical microbiology activity at Newcastle is to be transferred to other national health service accommodation in Newcastle as a result of redevelopment plans for Newcastle General Hospital. No clinical microbiology staff or activities have yet been transferred.

The HPA's Food, Water and Environmental Unit at Newcastle is transferring to Leeds as part of a phased transfer. Three senior staff will transfer to Leeds or will work remotely, as part of this transfer. The remainder of the staff have been offered alternative employment within the Newcastle Clinical laboratory and will re-locate with these units to sites within Newcastle Trust. The HPA is aiming to complete this process by 31 March.

Health Protection Agency: Porton Down

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the terms of the Health Protection Agency's (HPA) recommendation to his Department to close the HPA site at Porton Down. [318172]

Gillian Merron: The Health Protection Agency has made no recommendation to the Department to close its site at Porton Down. The Department does not disclose business cases, such as this one, which contain commercially sensitive information.

Muscular Dystrophy

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to increase the number of centres for the treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy. [316865]

Ann Keen: It is the responsibility of local health bodies to ensure they have appropriate facilities available for the care of those living with Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

Neuromuscular services, including those for muscular dystrophy, are included within the Adult Neurosciences Chapter of the Third Edition of the Specialised Services National Definitions Set (SSNDS). SSNDS helps hospitals to provide soundly based costings and commissioners to effectively plan, procure and monitor specialised services activity. The third edition of the set will improve the precision and coverage of the definitions, incorporating the most up to date diagnosis and intervention codes to make the SSNDS as comprehensive as possible.

The National Specialised Commissioning team has brought to Specialist Commissioning Groups attention the key issues arising from the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign ongoing awareness campaign.

The Government's National Service Framework (NSF) for Long-term Conditions focuses on improving the standard and quality of services for people with neurological conditions including muscular dystrophy. The aim of the NSF is to ensure all those with these conditions will get faster diagnosis, more rapid treatment and a comprehensive package of care.

Prostate Cancer: Medical Treatments

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with a diagnosis of prostate cancer were recorded as having received treatment by *(a)* watchful waiting, *(b)* active surveillance, *(c)* radical prostatectomy, *(d)* laparoscopic prostatectomy, *(e)* robotic prostatectomy, *(f)* low-dose rate brachytherapy, *(g)* high-dose rate brachytherapy, *(h)* cryotherapy, *(i)* external beam radiotherapy, *(j)* hormone therapy, *(k)* high intensity ultrasound, *(l)* chemotherapy, *(m)* bisphosphonates and *(n)* another method in each primary care trust commissioning area of responsibility in each year since 1997-98. [317710]

Ann Keen: This information is not held in the requested format. We are not able to provide figures relating to watchful waiting, active surveillance, radical prostatectomy and bisphosphonates, as these are not captured in Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS)-4 codes.

We have provided a count of finished consultant episodes where the primary diagnosis was prostate cancer and this information has been placed in the Library.

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on hormonal therapy prescriptions for prostate cancer in *(a)* England, *(b)* each primary care trust area and *(c)* each constituency since 2007. [317715]

Ann Keen: The information requested has been placed in the Library, apart from constituency information, which is not collected centrally.

The tables provide the net ingredient cost of prescription items dispensed in the community by primary care trust (PCT) and nationally. Information on usage in hospitals is available and has been included in the response for England but is not available at PCT level.

Swine Flu: Musgrove Park Hospital Taunton

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been treated for symptoms of swine influenza at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton in the last 12 months. [317973]

Gillian Merron: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is collected at trust level. Musgrove Park Hospital is part of Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust. Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust has treated an estimated 62 in-patients with swine flu (H1N1 swabbed or clinically presumed) from 8 am 6 July 2009 to 8 am 11 February 2010. The Department did not collect data prior to 6 July 2009.

Turning Point

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has evaluated the effectiveness of the Turning Point charity's handling of the Connected Care programme on behalf of his Department; and if he will make a statement. [318199]

Phil Hope: Delivering Connected Care in Hartlepool is one of the Department's social enterprise pathfinder projects. The Department's 26 social enterprise pathfinder projects have been collectively evaluated but no specific evaluations of Turning Point in this regard was undertaken. The evaluation focused on the processes, barriers and enablers to social enterprise in the health and social care sector.

CABINET OFFICE

Central Office of Information: Contracts

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 101, on the Central Office of Information: public relations, if she will place in the Library a copy of the Building Britain's Future Urban Youth contract; which firm was awarded the contract; and what the monetary value is of the contract. [314846]

Tessa Jowell: Livity Ltd were engaged by Cabinet Office to work on communicating the themes in Building Britain's Future to young audiences. The total value of the contract was £20,000 (excluding VAT).

The Cabinet Office does not place contracts with its commercial suppliers in the Library as they are classified commercial in confidence. In this instance, the contract with Livity Ltd was drawn up by COI. The standard Terms and Conditions were those as per the COI's Cultural Diversity Framework. A copy of these has been placed in the Library. Future COI Framework Terms And Conditions will be published on the COI website when renewed.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the predicted monetary value is of the Branding lot of the Central Office of Information's Marketing and Brand Strategy Consultancy Framework; what contracts have been awarded under that lot; to which public bodies; and what estimate she has made of the total monetary value of all contracts under the Framework agreement. [315231]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 8 February 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [315231] asking for information regarding the Strategic Consultancy Framework.

There is no estimated monetary value of the Branding lot of the Central Office of Information's Marketing and Brand Strategy Consultancy Framework.

Two contracts have been awarded from the lot to Dept for Innovation and Shills and the National Fraud Authority Development Board.

The estimated total monetary value of all contracts under this Framework agreement is £13-14m over 4 years.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the predicted monetary value is of the Brand and Values lot of the Central Office of Information's Internal Communication, Engagement and Change Consultancy Framework; what contracts have been awarded under that lot; to which public bodies such contracts have been awarded; and what estimate she has made of the total monetary value of all contracts to be let under the Framework agreement. [315232]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 2 February 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [315232] on the Internal Communication, Engagement and Change Framework:

No contracts have been awarded under Lot 3 (Brand & Values) of the Internal Communications, Engagement and Change framework.

Total estimated monetary value of all contracts to be let under the duration (4 years) of the ICEC Framework Agreement is £9-10 million.

Departmental Computer Software

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what her policy is in respect of the installation and use of *(a)* Internet Explorer, *(b)* Firefox and *(c)* Opera website browsers by Government Departments. [318248][1]

Angela E. Smith: Government policy regarding installation and use of web browsers is that all decisions must be in line with value for money requirements. In addition, the Open Source, Open Standards, Re-use strategy requires Departments to consider open source browsers such as Firefox and Opera on a level basis with proprietary browsers such as Internet Explorer. The strategy can be found at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/318020/open_source.pdf

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1140W, on departmental correspondence, what her Department's policy is on the target for providing *(a)* an acknowledgement and *(b)* a substantive response to a request made under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [318340]

Tessa Jowell: Requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 are handled in accordance with the Act. Section 10 of the Act deals with the time for compliance with requests. Requests must be responded to promptly or in any event not later than 20 working days following receipt. In certain circumstances this 20 working day deadline can be extended.

Government Departments: Advertising

Anne Main: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Government has spent on advertisements for Government services on *(a)* television and *(b)* commercial radio since 2005. [317102]

Tessa Jowell: This information is not collected centrally. Each Government Department, agency and non-departmental public body is responsible for setting its own communications priorities and outputs, and each Secretary of State is responsible to Parliament.

While no central figures are held on the total Government communications spend, figures for Departments' expenditure through the Central Office of Information (COI) are shown in the COI Annual Report. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House. However these figures only provide a partial picture and do not distinguish between different advertising media.

Government Departments: Marketing

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to page 16 of Smarter Government, Cm 7753, what the monetary value is of the planned reduction in marketing and communications spend; over what period the planned reduction is expected to take place; whether the reduction relates to *(a)* Central Office of Information expenditure and *(b)* departmental expenditure; and whether she expects there to be any reduction in the number of departmental press officers employed. [315280]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

The 2009 pre-Budget report announced that Government would save £650 million from cuts of 50 per cent. in consultancy spend and 25 per cent. in marketing and communications spend across Government by 2012-13. The 25 per cent. cut will be based on 2009-10 spending levels. It will be for individual Departments and arm's length bodies to decide their priority for future spending.

Homeworking

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the number of people who worked from home in *(a)* rural areas, *(b)* urban areas and *(c)* nationally in each year since 1997; and what proportion of the workforce this represented in each case in each year. [318424]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

A copy of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

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[1] *[Official Report, 1 March 2010, Vol. 506, c. 12MC.]*

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will instruct the Cabinet Secretary to make available to the Iraq Inquiry the documents which Lord Goldsmith said he would wish to be made public during his appearance at the Inquiry on 27 January 2010. [317082]

Tessa Jowell: Government Departments have provided, or are in the process of providing, copies of all documents and electronic information they hold which the inquiry has so far requested. The Iraq inquiry has access to all Government papers it wants to see, including those referred to by Lord Goldsmith.

Publication of documents is a separate matter. Requests from the inquiry for declassification of documents are being handled in accordance with the protocol agreed between the Government and the inquiry, which is available on the Cabinet Office's website and a copy is in the Library of the House.

Non-profit Making Organisations

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what criteria the Office of the Third Sector uses to evaluate the performance of *(a)* social enterprise networks and *(b)* regional development agencies against their objectives to develop social enterprise. [318161]

Angela E. Smith: The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) does not evaluate the performance of the social enterprise networks. OTS does, however, work closely with the regional social enterprise networks and the regional development agencies (RDAs), as well as the national social enterprise representative body, the Social Enterprise Coalition, of which the regional networks are members. OTS has recently committed to host and chair a regular working group of the regional social enterprise networks and the RDAs which will aim to share information and best practice on supporting social enterprise.

The OTS is investing £5.9 million over four years from 2007-08, to improve social enterprise business support in each of the nine English regions. In October 2008, a contractor was appointed to undertake a national evaluation of the project. A baseline report on the early stages of the programme is available on the OTS website where further reports leading up to the final report due in 2011 will also be published:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/social_enterprise_business_support_baseline_report.aspx

The Cabinet Office is also funding the £6 million Social Enterprise Programme being delivered by Capacitybuilders, which aims to increase collaboration and knowledge sharing between social enterprise infrastructure and support services across the third sector.

Self-employed

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were recorded as self-employed in *(a)* rural areas, *(b)* urban areas and *(c)* nationally in each year since 1997; and what proportion of the workforce this represented in each case in each year. [318425]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

A copy of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Social Mobility Commission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much funding has been allocated to the Social Mobility Commission; by what mechanisms its staff will be appointed; how many staff will be employed by that Commission; and what the terms of reference are of that Commission. [318120]

Angela E. Smith: In 'Unleashing Aspirations', published on 18 January 2010, the Government set out their response to the final report of the Panel on Fair Access to the Professions, and agreed to establish a Social Mobility Commission. It will give expert advice to Government and report on progress towards a fairer, more mobile society.

A transition team has been set up within the Cabinet Office to make the necessary preparations for this Commission. The transition team will develop the detail of the Commission's terms of reference, funding and work programme. It will also advise on the appointment of members and the selection criteria for any appointments to the Commission.

The budget for the Social Mobility Commission has yet to be established, and will form part of the consideration of the transition team.

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether funding allocated to the Futurebuilders has been re-allocated to the Third Sector Recession Action Plan. [318131]

Angela E. Smith: The Real Help for Communities Action Plan is partially funded, with Treasury permission, from a draw down on end-year flexibility which has been accumulated from under-spends in some OTS programmes, including Futurebuilders.

Funding was not reallocated from Futurebuilders to the Third Sector Recession Action Plan.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Development: Business

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been granted under the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative in each *(a)* local authority and *(b)* lower layer super output area in each year since 2000. [318265]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Local Enterprise Growth Initiative follows closely the principles of devolution and provides eligible local authorities with the authority, freedom and flexibility to best determine the local needs and options, and use the funding in creative ways to support local priorities. Information is therefore not available for each lower layer super output area (LSOA).

I have placed in the Library of the House a table which provides details of LEGI allocations by local authority.

Community Development: Expenditure

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been granted under the New Communities Fund in each *(a)* local authority and *(b)* lower super output area in each year since 2000. [318212]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1027W.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been granted under the Inspiring Communities Grant in each *(a)* local authority and *(b)* lower super output area in each year since 2000. [318214]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Inspiring Communities has been designed as a two-year pilot for learning. Details of grant funding for the 15 projects are given as follows:

£

Local authority	*Lower super output areas*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
LB Barking and Dagenham (Heath Ward)	E01000061	Up to 201,666	Up to 285,000
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (Kendray and Worsbrough Bank End	E01007318	Up to 201,666	Up to 285,000
	E01007416		
	E01007320		
	E01007463		
	E01007462		
	E01007317		
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council (Darwen Central)	E01012649	Up to 201,666	Up to 285,000
	E01012647		
	E01012654		
	E01012650		
	E01012646		
Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council (Tonge with the Haulgh)	E01004817	Up to 201,666	Up to 285,000
	E01004818		
	E01004819		
	E01004821		
	E01004926		
	E01004927		
	E01004928		
	E01004929		
	E01004930		
	E01004931		
	E01004932		
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council (in Community)	E01010608	Up to 201,666	Up to 285,000
	E01010624		
	E01010606		
	E01010631		
	E01010621		
	E01010622		
	E01010620		
	E01010617		
	E01010629		
	E01010607		
Bristol City Council (Henbury)	E01014605	Up to 201,666	Up to 285,000
	E01014601		
	E01014602		
	E01014603		
	E01014604		
	E01014606		
Barrow Borough Council (Central and Hindpool)	E01019140	Up to 201,666	Up to 285,000
	E01019141		
	E01019142		
	E01019143		
	E01019156		
	E01019157		
	E01019158		
	E01019159		
Shepway District Council (East Folkestone)	E01024504	Up to 201,666	Up to 285,000
	E01024505		
	E01024506		
	E01024507		
Pendle Borough Council (Colne Primet)	E01025181	Up to 201,666	Up to 285,000
	E01025220		
	E01025226		
	E01025227		

£

Local authority	*Lower super output areas*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Manchester City Council (Gorton South)	E01005235	Up to 201,666	Up to 285,000
	E01005201		
	E01005198		
	E01005195		
	E01005197		
	E01005196		
North East Lincolnshire Council (The Willows and West Marsh)	E01013144	Up to 201,666	Up to 285,000
	E01013220		
	E01013218		
Breckland Council (Saxon and Abbey Wards)	E01026467	Up to 201,666	Up to 285,000
	E01026477		
	E01026475		
	E01026476		
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (Rawmarsh)	E01007775	Up to 201,666	Up to 285,000
	E01007774		
	E01007782		
	E01007781		
	E01007783		
	E01007780		
South Tyneside Council (East Shields)	E01008622	Up to 201,666	Up to 285,000
	E01008623		
	E01008682		
	E01008594		
	E01008626		
	E01008592		
	E01008591		
Stoke on Trent City Council (Dresden, Normacot and Florence)	E01014307	Up to 201,666	Up to 285,000
	E01014306		

Council Housing: Property Transfer

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what guidance he has issued to local authorities on the use of Community Land Trusts; [318535]

(2) what steps he plans to take to promote Community Land Trusts in urban areas; and if he will make a statement. [318536]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government are committed to helping the development of Community Land Trusts (CLTs) that are well managed and financially robust.

To provide clarity about the nature of the CLT sector, we included a definition of a CLT in the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008.

We have supported a number of pilot CLT projects across the country through the Housing Corporation and its successor the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). The HCA is exploring with local authorities the role that CLTs could play in meeting local housing need.

We have approved a £500,000 grant for Carnegie UK, supported by Community Finance Solutions, to develop the CLT sector by developing a sustainable network of training/guidance and support, and by engaging with lenders to facilitate access to finance for communities wishing to develop CLTs.

We have also funded the Development Trust Association to establish an asset transfer unit to help community organisations including CLTs to transform land and buildings into community assets.

Disadvantaged

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the level of deprivation in England was as measured by the Index of Multiple Deprivation for each individual indicator of deprivation in each *(a)* local authority and *(b)* lower layer super output area in each year since 2000. [318262]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The English indices of deprivation have, since 2004, been produced at lower level super output area (LSOA) level. LSOAs are smaller than wards and are designed to remain consistent in size, and over time, to allow more detailed identification of pockets of deprivation. There are 32,482 LSOAs in England with an average population of 1,500 people.

The indices are presented by ranking each area to show relative, rather than absolute levels of, deprivation. LSOAs are ranked from 1, most deprived, to 32,482, least deprived.

There are a selection of local authority level summary measures. The majority of the domains, and all the underlying indicators, are only published at LSOA level. For full details I refer to the publications on the Communities and Local Government website, as follows:

Indices of deprivation 2007 LSOA and Local Authority summaries can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/neighbourhoodrenewal/deprivation/deprivation07/

Indices of deprivation 2004 LSOA and local authority summaries can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/archived/general-content/communities/indicesofdeprivation/216309/

Before this, the indices were produced for each electoral ward in England. Indices of deprivation 2000 ward summaries can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/archived/general-content/communities/indicesofdeprivation/indicesofdeprivation/

Empty Dwelling Management Orders: North East

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty dwelling management orders there have been in each housing authority area in the North East region to date. [318825]

Mr. Ian Austin: In total 29 interim empty dwelling management orders have been issued to date. A residential property tribunal authorised the issue of one interim empty dwelling management order by South Tyneside council in March 2009.

Empty dwelling management orders should only be considered as a last resort, where all other measures of investigation and negotiation have been exhausted and the local authority has been unable to persuade the owner to bring the property back into use. In many cases the threat of an empty dwelling management order is sufficient to make owners take action.

Energy Performance Certificates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment his Department has made of the average cost to a certificate holder of a domestic energy performance certificate; and if he will make a statement. [316947]

Mr. Ian Austin: The cost of energy performance certificates (EPCs) is determined by the market. No information is therefore held centrally upon which to base an estimate of the average cost to building owners or landlords of having an EPC prepared on any property that they may own.

Government Offices for the Regions: Finance

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what programme budgets of each sponsoring Government Department are administered by Government Offices for the Regions. [318508]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The programme budgets currently being administered by Government offices for the regions are as follows:

CLG

Regional Assembly Grant
Regional Housing Pot
Regional Chambers Fund
Local Area Agreements
Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant
Disabled Facilities Grant
European Regional Development Fund—Objectives 1 and 2
New Deal for Communities
Preventing Violent Extremism
PSA 16 Challenge Fund

DWP

European Social Fund—Objectives 1, 2 and 3

DCSF

GO Networking
CSA Support
CSA Secondee costs
Young London Matters
Manchester City Region
Child Poverty
Childcare Regional Networks
Local Delivery Support
14-19 Sub-regional Groupings Support
Youth Opportunities Fund
Youth Capital Fund/Capital Fund Plus
Teenage Pregnancy
Quality Protects and Education Protects
Community Cohesion Unit
Safeguarding Advisors
Sustainable Schools
Parenting Regional Conferences
Child Health Strategy Regional Conference
You're Welcome
CSLA Pilots
NEET Hotspots
Under 5's Free Offer
2 Year Olds Offer

Home Office/Ministry of Justice

Regional Partnership Performance Improvement Fund
National Partnership Performance Improvement Fund
Prevent Fund
Protect Programme Delivery
Private Space Violence Fund
Youth Crime Delivery
Basic Command Unit Fund
Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs)
Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs)
Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs)
Rape Crisis Centre Funding
Not in my Neighbourhood
Tackling Violent Crime Programme (TVCP)
ISB Devon's Project Expenditure
PPSU Safer Bristol Partnership

DEFRA

Leader + (EAGGF)
Sustainable Development Transformation & Transition Fund
Regional Climate Change Partnership Funding

Cabinet Office

Regional Infrastructure Programme

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to Lord Bates of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column 1190, on energy performance certificates, what the evidential basis is for the assessment that home information packs have *(a)* bedded down well and *(b)* proved to be a useful instrument to help purchasers. [317871]

Mr. Ian Austin: A survey by Connells estate agency in 2009 of more than 37,000 transactions showed that sales with HIPs go through seven days more quickly on average. Consumer research carried out by the Office of Fair Trading showed that a third of buyers were influenced by their HIP and found the new property information questionnaire to be the most useful component.

Homelessness

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on the provision of services to households which are designated intentionally homeless; [314657]

(2) what provision is made for emergency accommodation for households which are classified as intentionally homeless; [314658]

(3) how many households classified as intentionally homeless in each of the last three years included children; [314659]

(4) how many households classified as intentionally homeless were provided with emergency accommodation in each of the last three years; and how many such households were accommodated for more than *(a)* 28 and *(b)* 60 days; [314660]

(5) how many households in each local authority area were classified as intentionally homeless in each of the last three years; [314661]

(6) how many households in temporary accommodation were classified as intentionally homeless in each of the last three years; [314663]

(7) how many of the households in temporary accommodation were classified as intentionally homeless on the latest date for which figures are available. [314664]

Mr. Ian Austin: Chapter 11 of the "Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities", issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in July 2006 under section 182 of the Housing Act 1996 ("the 1996 Act") provides guidance to local authorities on determining whether housing applicants became homeless, or threatened with homelessness, intentionally or unintentionally. Supplementary guidance on intentional homelessness, in respect of applicants who face homelessness following difficulties in mortgage commitments, was issued by the Secretary of State in August 2009 under s.182 of the 1996 Act. The guidance is available on the Department's website at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/homelessnesscode

Under section 190(2)(a) of the 1996 Act, where a local housing authority in England are satisfied that an applicant is eligible for assistance, has a priority need for accommodation but has become homeless intentionally, the authority must secure that accommodation is available for the applicant's occupation for such period as they consider will give the applicant a reasonable opportunity of securing accommodation for his or her occupation. Under section 190(2)(b), the authority must also provide the applicant with (or secure that the applicant is provided with) advice and assistance in any attempts the applicant may make to secure that accommodation becomes available for his or her occupation. Under section 188(1) of the 1996 Act, authorities also have a duty to secure accommodation for applicants, pending inquiries, if they have reason to believe the applicant may eligible for assistance, homeless and may have a priority need for accommodation. This duty will apply even if the authority has reason to believe the applicant may have become homeless intentionally.

Information about English local housing authorities' activities under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly statistical release on statutory homelessness, available both in the Library and via the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessq32009

Under the legislation, the priority need categories include, among others, applicants with whom dependent children reside or might reasonably be expected to reside. Data collected include the number of applicants accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, in priority need but intentionally homeless.

The number of households found to be eligible for assistance, intentionally homeless and in priority need in the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 is 10,930, 9,560 and 8,890 respectively. Information about the number of these households that included children is not held centrally.

Information about the number of households found intentionally homeless and provided with emergency accommodation, and for how long they were accommodated, is not held centrally.

Data on households found to be eligible for assistance, intentionally homeless and in priority need are provided in live table 627 on statutory homelessness, which is published on the Department's website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141476.xls

The number of households accepted as eligible for assistance, in priority need but intentionally homeless and accommodated in temporary accommodation for such period as will give the applicant a reasonable opportunity to secure accommodation was 1,370, 810 and 840 at the end of March 2007, March 2008 and March 2009, respectively. The latest quarterly data show 600 such households in temporary accommodation at the end of September 2009.

Housing

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has allocated to assist first-time buyers with property purchases in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12. [318507]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 866-68 W.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Brent East (Sarah Teather) on 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 267W.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many permanent dwellings of each tenure were constructed in England in each of the last 30 calendar years including 2009. [314943]

Mr. Ian Austin: The information requested is shown in live table 244 on the Communities and Local Government website at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1473581.xls

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many schemes scoring less than nine points under the Building for Life criteria were proposed for *(a)* private development and *(b)* social or affordable housing under the Kickstart programme. [316952]

Mr. Ian Austin: Under Round 1 of Kickstart, there were 67 schemes which the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) scored as less than nine points under the Building for Life criteria. Of these, 28 included funding for affordable housing. All 28 of these were characterised by either incomplete information being made available to CABE and/or a review of the schemes by the Homes and Communities Agency. The CABE assessments were used to highlight schemes where more attention was needed and were the basis for further assessment by HCA regional teams. The HCA regional teams were able to augment the CABE assessment with additional relevant local information, to reach their final decisions.

Further information on Round 1 of Kickstart, including a breakdown of scores under Building for Life, is available on the HCA website.

Immigration

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1067W, on immigration, what the average annual projected change is in the number of households in England between 2006 and 2031 on the basis of the principal population projection; and what the equivalent average annual increase is using a zero net migration projection. [318419]

John Healey: The latest national household projections, based on the 2006 Sub-National Population Projections published by the Office for National Statistics, are published on the Communities and Local Government website and contain figures showing the components of household growth.

Landlords

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to his Department's news release of 3 February 2010 on tenants' protection, what plans his Department has for an online directory of landlords; what estimate he has made of the costs of establishing such a directory; whether such costs are to be entirely borne by his Department; when he expects the directory to begin operation; and if he will make a statement. [318751]

Mr. Ian Austin: Details of our plans for a national register of landlords are set out in the paper published alongside the 3 February announcement—"The private rented sector: professionalism and quality—consultation. Summary of responses and next steps". Estimated costs associated with the register, which will be met from registration fees, are provided in the relevant impact assessment published as part of the consultation exercise on the Government response to the Rugg Review—"The private rented sector: professionalism and quality"—which took place in the period 13 May to 7 August 2009. Both of these documents can be accessed through the Department's website.

Local Government Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the amount of area-based grant funding to be distributed to local authorities in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [317983]

Barbara Follett: The amounts of area-based grant announced for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are £3,280,108,374 and £4,818,317,187 respectively.

Decisions about the amount of area-based grant in 2011-12 have not yet been made.

Local Government: Inspections

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate his Department has made of the cost of *(a)* local authority reporting to central Government and *(b)* local government inspection by external inspectors and auditors; and what recent research his Department has (i) conducted and (ii) commissioned on this matter; [318504]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the cost to central Government of inspecting local government; and what recent research his Department has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* commissioned on this matter. [318505]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This Department has made no such estimates. Assessment and inspection is carried out by a number of inspectorates, including the Audit Commission which is sponsored by Communities and Local Government (CLG). The cost to the Audit Commission of its assessment and inspection is covered by a mixture of the fees paid by local authorities and direct grant from CLG. In 2009-10, the grant from CLG for the Commission's local government and Fire and Rescue Authority work totalled £20.2 million.

This Department has not conducted or commissioned any research on these matters. However, the Audit Commission, on behalf of the joint inspectorates responsible for Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), commissioned an independent evaluation of CAA. This is looking at implementation and delivery of the new arrangements, co-ordination across inspectorates and the initial cost to inspected bodies under CAA. The evaluation report is expected to be published in March.

As part of the Government's Smarter Government White Paper, CLG are leading on commitments to remove indicators that are no longer relevant or needed by April 2010 and reducing the overall number of national indicators against which local authorities will have to report their performance for the next spending period. We are also running a number of Total Place pilots and have invited them to provide information on the costs of assessment and inspection. The Department is preparing a report on Total Place which it will issue at Budget 2010. HM Treasury is leading a review of the work and number of inspectorates, supporting the Government's aims to reduce the burdens connected to assessment and inspection.

Mining

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to amend the provisions of policy guidance concerning coal mining and colliery spoil disposal. [317376]

Mr. Ian Austin: There is no current intention to review existing planning policy on coal mining and colliery spoil disposal.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeowners in Castle Point constituency are in receipt of assistance from the Homeowner Mortgage Protection scheme. [318098]

John Healey: For management information on homeowners mortgage support I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden, (Mrs. Spelman) on 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1297W. This information is not monitored at constituency level.

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been granted under the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund in each *(a)* local authority and *(b)* lower layer super output area in each year since 2000. [318263]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) was allocated to eligible local authorities with the authority, freedom and flexibility to best determine the local needs and options. Information is therefore not available for how this was applied to each lower layer super output area (LSOA).

NRF ran from 2001-02 to 2007-08.

I have placed in the Library of the House, a table which records the NRF allocation for each local authority area in England from 2001 to 2008.

New Communities Fund

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on *(a)* staffing, *(b)* administration and *(c)* publicity costs in respect of the New Communities Fund. [318277]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 474W.

Because of the decision in 2009 to reallocate resources from the New Communities Fund to other ministerial priorities, the costs incurred by the Department were for staff time spent in the development of options and discussions with stakeholders. It would incur disproportionate costs to provide this information.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on the New Communities Fund; and how many people have participated in the Fund since its inception. [318278]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 474W.

New Deal for Communities

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on *(a)* staffing, *(b)* administration and *(c)* publicity costs in respect of the New Deal for Communities programme. [318276]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Non-profit Making Associations

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 254W, on non-profit making associations, what outcomes he anticipates from social enterprises and other third sector organisations allocated funding from his Department; and by what mechanisms his Department will measure the performance of social enterprises against targets in the next three years. [318400]

Barbara Follett: The Department provides funding which benefits over 150 third sector and social enterprise organisations. The outcomes of this funding vary in different localities and information on these is not held centrally. To gather it would involve disproportionate time and cost.

In line with greater decentralisation, the Department does not set performance targets for social enterprises. Where the Department directly funds and works with social enterprises, progress and performance are assessed against agreed work plans, milestones and budgets specifically tailored to the individual programme needs.

Property Development: Floods

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of *(a)* new and *(b)* affordable homes were built in areas at risk from flooding in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009. [318519]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 295W.

Second Homes

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the number of second homes in *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural areas in England. [318484]

Barbara Follett: As at October 2009, there were 127,000 second homes in local authority areas classified as urban and 125,000 second homes in those classified as rural.

The data are as reported by all billing authorities on their annual council tax base (CTB) form. The split into urban and rural areas is based on the DEFRA rural definition and local authority classification. Full details of this can be found on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/rural/rural-definition.htm

Social Rented Housing: Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in Feltham and Heston constituency *(a)* have been improved under the Decent Homes programme in each year of the programme and *(b)* do not meet the Decent Homes standard. [316670]

Mr. Ian Austin: We cannot provide figures at constituency level. We do not hold a figure for the number of properties improved by the London borough of Hounslow each year under the decent homes programme. The number of non-decent homes each year is shown in the table.

Non-decent dwelling estimates—Hounslow

	Total stock	*Non-decent dwellings*	*Percentage non-decent*
2001	15,091	10,500	70
2002	14,892	10,499	71
2003	14,580	9,243	63
2004	13,879	5,258	38
2005	13,373	2,508	19
2006	12,899	0	0
2007	13,176	0	0
2008	12,942	0	0
2009	13,549	0	0

Source:
Annual returns to Communities and Local Government

Social Rented Housing: Tenants

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 914-5W, on affordable housing, what steps the Tenant Services Authority is taking to assist social landlords with the sexual orientation surveys of tenants; [317873]

(2) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 914-5W, on affordable housing, if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's guidance on the monitoring and evaluation systems; whether any additional funding has been allocated by his Department to local authorities to assist the monitoring and evaluation of the sexual orientation of tenants; whether completing such a form will be a condition of tenancy; and whether requirements will apply to social landlords to report the findings of their sexual orientation surveys to *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Tenant Services Authority, *(c)* the Government Equalities Office and *(d)* the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [317874]

Mr. Ian Austin: There is no statutory requirement on social landlords to monitor or survey the sexual orientation of their tenants and no Government plans to make it a requirement on social landlords to report to any organisation data on the sexual orientation of their tenants. Consequently, no additional funding has been allocated to local authorities by Communities and Local Government specifically to assist with the monitoring and evaluation of the sexual orientation of their tenants.

The Government do not believe it would be appropriate to make it a requirement that tenants should provide information on their sexual orientation.

The guidance referred to in the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 914-5W, is statutory guidance on the allocation of social housing by local authorities ('Fair and Flexible', issued 4 December 2009). I have arranged for a copy of the guidance to be placed in the Library of the House.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 297W, on travelling people: caravan sites, if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* planning and enforcement appeal rulings made by the Planning Inspectorate that resulted in the appeal being granted in part or in full and *(b)* representations of 24 February 2009. [317813]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information in respect of *(a)* has been deposited in the Library of the House. This shows which of the 75 planning and enforcement appeals on the previous list have been allowed by the Planning Inspectorate either in part or in full. These decisions, for appeals lodged by Green Planning Solutions, can be retrieved from the Planning Portal on

http://www.pcs.planningportal.gov.uk/pcsportal/casesearch.asp

In respect of *(b)*, the meeting of the 24 February 2009 was arranged following general issues raised in procedural correspondence over a number of appeals. The agenda, summarised in my previous reply, has also been deposited in the Library of the House. I am advised that no formal notes were made during or after the meeting, but the meeting lasted for about an hour and discussion was general and related directly to the agenda items. No specific and current appeal casework was mentioned.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Manpower

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people have been employed in the agricultural sector in each year since 1997. [318483]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Figures on the total agricultural labour force at June each year have been taken from DEFRA's annual June survey of agriculture and horticulture (see notes 1 to 6) and are set out as follows.

Total labour force including farmers and their spouses

	Number (thousand)
1997	417.0
1998	415.0
1999	397.2
2000	374.0
2001	368.3
2001[5]	386.7
2002[6]	371.6
2003	354.4
2004	367.5
2005	364.9
2006	361.0
2007	353.1
2008	360.1
2009	363.0

[1] Includes estimates for minor holdings.

[2] Estimates have been made for non-respondents.

[3] Figures exclude school children but include trainees employed under an official youth training scheme and paid at Agricultural Wages Board rates or above.

[4] The figures presented here are not comparable with earlier years' results due to the introduction of new questions in 1998.

[5] June 2001 results assuming register improvements had not taken place (comparable with June 2000).

[6] June 2001 results including register improvement (not directly comparable with June 2000).

Changes in labour force estimates

In 1998, fundamental changes were introduced to the labour questions on the June agricultural and horticultural census in England. It appears that this change in questions may have led to the recording of additional Labour who were not previously included in the returns.

We therefore advise caution when comparing the 1998 results with previous years. The June 2001 figures include estimates for holdings that have been converted from the temporary register. Further improvements to the register of agricultural holdings have also been made, mainly as a result of livestock tracing. As a result it is not possible to directly compare the June 2000 and June 2001 results. Furthermore, it is not possible to backdate the existing labour series as it is impossible to estimate how long the newly registered holdings have been in existence. However, the June 2001 results have also been calculated assuming the register changes had not taken place to provide comparable figures.

Clothing: Recycling

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage the development of an (*a*) industry-wide standard and (*b*) voluntary agreement for the collection, sorting, re-use and recycling of second hand clothing. [318517]

Dan Norris: DEFRA has co-ordinated the sustainable clothing roadmap, a voluntary industry initiative to improve the environmental and ethical performance of clothing. One aim of the roadmap is to increase re-use and recycling, including consideration of issues around collection and sorting. In association with industry and stakeholders, we launched the first sustainable clothing action plan to implement this roadmap in 2009.

The clothing roadmap and supporting research are available on DEFRA's website:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/products/roadmaps/clothing/index.htm

Departmental Communication

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department publishes an annual report on departmental communications. [315599]

Dan Norris: The Department does not publish an annual report specifically about communications. Communication is included as a separate item in the departmental annual report.

Departmental Energy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated (*a*) amount and (*b*) cost was of energy used in his Department and its agencies in each year since 1997; what proportion of the energy used was generated from renewable sources in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [317205]

Dan Norris: The annual consumption and cost of energy used in buildings on the DEFRA and Executive Agency estate for the last five years is shown in the following table.

2008-09

	Total energy consumption (kWh)	*Electricity sourced from renewables (kWh) (percentage)*	*Total energy costs (£)*
DEFRA	21,522,953	98	1,510,199
AH (formerly SVS)	5,317,597	44	387,349
MFA (formed 1 October 2005)	404,273	25	29,754
RPA	14,498,399	71	950,752
CEFAS	9,379,577	8	622,231
CSL	40,559,266	0	2,332,672
VLA	44,864,924	81	4,297,579
Total	136,546,989	51	10,130,536

2007-08

	Total energy consumption (kWh)	*Electricity sourced from renewables (kWh) (percentage)*	*Total energy costs (£)*
DEFRA	21,340,167	97	1,150,415
AH (formerly SVS)	5,150,307	41	261,864
MFA (formed 1 October 2005)	364,406	22	21,399
RPA	13,908,468	69	669,044
CEFAS	9,934,436	15	470,328
CSL	45,196,932	0	1,659,416
VLA	41,968,897	73	2,406,933

2007-08

	Total energy consumption (kWh)	Electricity sourced from renewables (kWh) (percentage)	Total energy costs (£)
Total	137,863,613	49	6,639,399

2006-07

	Total energy consumption (kWh)	Electricity sourced from renewables (kWh) (percentage)	Total energy costs (£)
DEFRA	24,165,459	98	1,570,066
AH (formerly SVS)	4,601,516	42	322,199
MFA (formed 1 October 2005)	348,724	27	26,109
RPA	13,099,355	72	932,821
CEFAS	9,283,248	16	609,434
CSL	45,099,918	0	2,388,140
VLA	57,407,464	76	2,686,754
Total	154,005,683	49	8,535,523

2005-06

	Total energy consumption (kWh)	Electricity sourced from renewables (kWh) (percentage)	Total energy costs (£)
DEFRA	30,901,021	98	1,643,946
AH (formerly SVS)	290,692	19	18,671
MFA (formed 1 October 2005)	7,907,833	52	356,441
RPA	14,732,692	75	743,595
CEFAS	9,759,358	18	478,240
CSL	33,780,184	0	1,264,097
VLA	73,434,002	95	1,800,277
Total	170,805,783	62	6,305,267

2004-05

	Total energy consumption (kWh)	Electricity sourced from renewables (kWh) (percentage)	Total energy costs (£)
DEFRA	34,864,546	83	1,538,497
RPA	13,274,480	77	537,585
CEFAS	9,492,031	19	340,743
CSL	29,170,003	0	925,284
VLA	47,740,084	95	1,065,177
Total	134,541,144	58	4,407,286

Notes:

MFA Data in 2005-06 is for the whole year, we are unable to split the data before and after the Agency was formed.

Key to table:

AH--Animal Health

MFA--Marine Fisheries Agency

RPA--Rural Payments Agency

CEFAS--Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science

CSL--Central Science Laboratory

VLA--Veterinary Laboratories Agency

Departmental Housing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* potential annual rental and *(b)* total book value of the (i) empty and (ii) occupied residential properties owned by his Department. [313753]

Dan Norris: The Department's empty residential property has a combined potential annual rental value of £24,000. The Department's occupied residential property has a potential annual rental value of £222,100, which excludes a number of properties held as part of the letting of a larger holding.

The Department's empty residential property has a total book value of £207,000. The Department's occupied residential property has a total book value of £5,195,000.

Of those residential properties currently vacant, the houses are either actively being offered for sale or are already sold subject to contract.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its agencies have spent on font licensing in the last three years. [315477]

Dan Norris: There has been no departmental spend on font licensing in the last three years.

Detailed spend on font licensing by DEFRA agencies is not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental NDPBs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for how many non-departmental public bodies his Department is responsible. [314253]

Dan Norris: Information on the number of non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) sponsored by my Department is published in the annual Cabinet Office report—"Public Bodies". "Public Bodies 2009" is available online at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/ndpb

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which companies were contracted by his Department for the provision of temporary staff in each of the last three years; how many temporary staff were employed by his Department in each such year; and what the monetary value was of contracts with each such company in each such year. [317996]

Dan Norris *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* The following tables provide information on the companies contracted for the provision of temporary staff in each of the last three years and the monetary value of the contracts with each company in each year. The number of temporary staff employed under these contracts is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

2007-08

	£
Adecco UK Ltd.	1,544,374.05
Office Angels	660,256.89
Badenoch and Clark	380,986.21
Kelly Services UK Ltd.	298,628.19
Morgan Hunt	170,005.97
Brook Street (UK) Ltd.	104,040.88
Capita Resourcing Ltd.	102,148.07
Advantage Professional UK Ltd.	67,606.72
Josephine Sammons Ltd.	47,452.26
PSD Contracts Ltd.	42,572.77
Manpower UK Ltd.	40,369.53
Venn Group	37,606.13
Forum For The Future	35,543.75
Catch 22	34,622.07
Hays Accountancy and Finance	26,669.39
Reed Personnel Services Plc	24,994.34
Stopgap Ltd.	23,092.66
Adept Recruitment	17,416.64
The Boston Consulting Group Ltd.	17,311.68
Cashfriday Ltd.	15,103.46
Central Office of Information	13,379.54
Michael Page International	12,863.09
Student Employment Services Ltd.	8,000.86
Npower	5,509.75
Charter House Recruitment	4,817.13
Allen Lane	3,642.50
Ntrinsic Consulting Ltd.	2,820.00
T R L Ltd.	1,994.75
Gardiner and Theobald	1,373.38
Amqis Consortium	1,157.38

2008-09

	£
Office Angels	1,349,114.69
Adecco UK Ltd.	960,372.90
Catch 22	426,740.23
Badenoch and Clark	255,544.56
Brook Street (UK) Ltd.	154,031.05
Kelly Services UK Ltd.	138,215.13
Advantage Professional UK Ltd.	99,393.48
Morgan Hunt	97,497.84
Cameo Scientific Ltd.	70,651.35
CDI Anderselite Ltd.	63,355.58
Shell UK Ltd.	62,669.84
Gordon Yates Ltd.	53,739.30
Hays Specialist Recruitment Ltd.	46,174.80
Capita Business Services Ltd.	36,744.23
Hays Accountancy Personnel	35,697.06
The Boston Consulting Group Ltd.	34,623.36
Josephine Sammons Ltd.	33,996.56
Forum For The Future	32,675.00
Manpower UK Ltd.	30,098.53
Aether Ltd.	28,850.01
Brightlite Solutions Ltd.	28,760.27
Michael Page Ltd.	27,054.13
London Films International Ltd.	24,432.39
Hays Accountancy and Finance	23,571.56
Reed Employment Plc	22,779.13
Central Office of Information	13,167.00
Student Employment Services Ltd.	12,442.35
Michael Page International	8,883.76
BETA Technology Ltd.	8,444.85
Russam GMS Ltd.	7,141.50
Hudson Global Resources Ltd.	6,900.00
Reed Personnel Services Plc	4,017.64
Communisis P M S	3,820.00
Engineering Development Trust	2,162.00
T R L Ltd.	1,857.19
Bedford Consulting Ltd.	1,275.78
Law Absolute Ltd.	1,095.57

2009-10 (April to January)

	£
Office Angels	1,344,872.05
Adecco UK Ltd.	790,831.01
Michael Page International	160,597.75
Hays Specialist Recruitment Ltd.	133,289.19
Badenoch and Clark	128,709.58
Brook Street (UK) Ltd.	126,134.25
Morgan Hunt	97,720.58
Capita Business Services Ltd.	88,870.73
Kelly Services UK Ltd.	88,611.77
Aether Ltd.	76,878.71
Amtec Consulting Group	75,289.40
Advantage Professional UK Ltd.	74,377.12
Capita Resourcing Ltd.	61,177.01
Catch 22	57,032.51
Cameo Corporate Services Ltd.	55,699.66
Sand Resources Ltd.	54,107.24
Hays Accountancy and Finance	52,219.38
Alpine Resourcing Ltd.	50,608.58
Hudson Global Resources Ltd.	43,690.42
Tribal Helm Corporation Ltd.	41,921.26
Reed Specialist Recruitment Ltd.	37,698.44
Venn Group	29,769.63
Josephine Sammons Ltd.	18,530.43
Monarch Recruitment Ltd.	17,204.62
Stopgap Ltd.	15,762.25
Blue Arrow Personnel Services Ltd.	14,593.13
Russam GMS Ltd.	10,183.25
Student Employment Services Ltd.	8,865.29
Gardiner and Theobald	8,573.56
A E A Technology—SPM Lead Contract	7,570.27
Contractor Umbrella Ltd.	7,400.93
Michael Page Ltd.	6,891.30
Hays Accountancy Personnel	5,404.61
Qi Consulting	3,825.10
Central Office of Information	3,696.00
CDI Anderselite Ltd.	2,314.38
Serco Consulting	2,284.54
Jacqueline Francis	1,250.00

Food: Schools

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what funding his Department has allocated for the creation of school allotments for the purpose of growing food; [318512]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to assist teachers in setting up food-growing schemes in schools. [318513]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have supported the "Growing Schools" programme since 2001. The programme provides easy access to a wide range of curriculum-based resources and a comprehensive continuous professional development programme for teachers. In the last three years this has been funded at £350,000 per annum. It is up to schools to identify suitable space for food growing.

DEFRA announced in the Government's new Food Strategy (Food 2030), published in early January, that it would be providing further support to the programme. The new DEFRA funding will build the capacity of the programme and enable a further 65,000 pupils, parents and staff to gain hands-on experience of growing food. This will be included as part of a forthcoming tender exercise which will appoint the contractor for the next phase of the programme.

Newspaper Licensing Agency

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what payments his Department's agencies made to the Newspaper Licensing Agency in each of the last 10 years. [315595]

Dan Norris: The following table shows payments made by the core Department to the Newspaper Licensing Agency in each of the last 10 years taken from central records.

	£
2000-01	18,837.93
2001-02	42,774.79
2002-03	6,961.88
2003-04	10,746.66
2004-05	54,678.12
2005-06	164,178.46
2006-07	172,749.73
2007-08	180,146.03
2008-09	185,114.84
2009-10	147,589.06

Rats: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 232W, on rats: Greater London, whether his Department holds a copy of the completed survey report for the period up to 2006. [317603]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The next report covering the period up to 2006 will be available soon. It has taken longer than anticipated to ensure comparability of analyses between years for the rodent data from the English House Condition Survey. This has delayed report publication beyond the previously indicated target of 2009.

Rural Payments Agency: Pay

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been paid in bonuses to staff at the Rural Payments Agency in each of the last five years. [318170]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Westmorland and Lonsdale (Tim Farron) on 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 874-75W.

Textiles: Waste Disposal

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to reduce the amount of textile waste going to landfill. [318518]

Dan Norris: The Government consider that landfill should be the last resort for most types of waste. We are assessing the case for restricting a number of biodegradable and recyclable wastes, including textiles, from landfill.

DEFRA and the devolved Administrations have commissioned further research on the options for landfill bans or restrictions in the UK, including the costs, benefits and practical implications. We will publish a consultation on these options in the coming weeks.

TREASURY

Bank Services: Local Government

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his officials have had with *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* representatives of the government of Iceland on local authority investments in Icelandic banks in 2010. [318454]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Bankruptcy: Business

Mr. Binley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer against how many businesses HM Revenue and Customs has initiated winding up or bankruptcy action in 2008-09; and how much debt such action recovered. [316843]

Mr. Timms: The total number of bankruptcy and winding up petitions filed by HM Revenue and Customs in 2008-09 in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland was 13,181. This has fallen from 2006-07 and 2007-08 when the totals were 17,936 and 14,716 respectively.

The information on the value of the debt contained within those petitions is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Banks: Pay

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the distribution of money yielded by the one-off levy on any individual discretionary bonus above £25,000 paid by banks to their employees between the pre-Budget report and April 2010. [317327]

Mr. Timms: The Government set out their plans for tax and spending at the pre-Budget and Budget reports.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 520W, on economic and monetary union, if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the most recent meeting of the Standing Committee on Preparations for the euro. [318312]

Mr. Timms: A copy of the minutes requested has been placed in the Library of the House.

Inheritance Tax: Moray

Angus Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Exchequer received from inheritance tax on estates in Moray constituency in the last five years. [318005]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available at a sub-regional level. Inheritance tax data are based on a UK-wide sample of cases which is designed to produce national level figures and the size of the sample means that we could not currently estimate tax receipts reliably at constituency level.

Local Government: Cost Effectiveness

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 290W, on local government: cost effectiveness, what proportion of the estimated £550 million of savings he expects to result from efficiencies made in respect of waste collection and disposal. [317811]

Mr. Byrne: The pre-Budget report sets out a number of areas where local government will be able to find significant efficiencies by 2012-13, including waste collection and disposal. It is for individual local authorities to make efficiencies based on local priorities and use of resources in these and other services.

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 290W, on local government: cost effectiveness, whether the proposed £800 million savings by 2012-13 will include efficiency savings made in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [317878]

Mr. Byrne: The pre-Budget report sets out a number of areas where local government will be able to find £800 million per year efficiency savings by 2012-13. These are savings to be delivered by 2012-13 against a baseline year of 2010-11.

Maternity Benefits

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate of take-up of the Health in Pregnancy Grant is among parents in each income decile group. [318387]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available. Income details are not collected on the Health in Pregnancy claim form.

Tax Collection

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to the merits of centralising the collection of amounts owed to all Government Departments through one debt collection body. [317332]

Mr. Byrne: HMT currently has no plans to introduce one debt collection body, but Treasury Ministers continually have policy options under review and recognise the need for joined-up approaches.

Taxation

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* P14 and *(b)* P35 returns required clerical action in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009. [316949]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, as the data are not held centrally.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many tax credit overpayments were written off in each month of *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09; and if he will make a statement; [317179]

(2) how many disputed tax credit overpayments have resulted in no repayment *(a)* because of official error and *(b)* in total in each month of each year since their introduction; and if he will make a statement; [317180]

(3) how many tax credit overpayments were disputed in each month *(a)* between June 2007 and March 2008 and *(b)* since December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [317182]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not separately record whether a tax credits overpayment is written off in part or in full so the precise information requested is not available. HMRC explains its approach to tax credits overpayments and the circumstances in which customers may not have to pay them back in its Code of Practice 26 "What happens if we've paid you too much tax credit?", available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/cop26.pdf

For information about the numbers of disputed overpayment cases and the number of disputed overpayments written off in part or in full as a result of official error up to and including 2007-08, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 901-02W, and 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 212W.

Information relating to disputed overpayments written off on grounds of official error in 2008-09 and 2009-10 can be found in the following table.

	New disputes (ground)	Written off in part or full (around)
2008		
May	—	950
June	—	750
July	—	1,000
August	—	950
September	—	1,200
October	—	1,350
November	—	1,650
December	15,250	1,800
2009		
January	11,200	2,350
February	8,450	2,200
March	8,600	4,250
April	8,450	4,650
May	6,300	1,650
June	9,000	2,250
July	8,800	2,300
August	10,350	2,150
September	13,750	2,800
October	12,050	2,750
November	15,250	3,400
December	9,450	2,400

Note:
The figures for overpayments written off do not directly relate to those disputes that were received in the same period.

The number of tax credit overpayments remitted separately on hardship grounds are compiled annually to the end of October and are shown in the following table.

Year to end of October	Number of overpayments remitted
2006	134
2007	2,092
2008	1,176
2009	1,189

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of recovering tax credits debt where deduction from ongoing payments is not possible; [317290]

(2) what plans he has for the treatment of the remaining £559 million of tax credits overpayments created in 2003-04 that had not been recovered by 31 March 2009; [317304]

(3) what steps he plans to take to increase the number of opportunities for recovering tax credit overpayments from any subsequent tax credits payments where one award has ceased and a new award started; [317306]

(4) what changes he proposes to enable a greater number of tax credits customers to repay overpayments through deduction from income and benefits. [317307]

Mr. Timms: These issues were included in the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee of Public Accounts report 2009-10: 'HM Revenue and Customs: Improving the Processing and Collection of Tax: Income Tax, Corporation Tax, Stamp Duty Land Tax and Tax Credits' (HC 97), published on 10 December 2009. The Government will publish their responses to the Committee's Report in a Treasury Minute.

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much of the total tax credit debt was recovered *(a)* by deduction from ongoing tax credit payments and *(b)* by other means in the 2008-09 tax year. [317305]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is on page R39 of HM Revenue and Customs 2008-09 Accounts, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accs-0809.pdf

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on *(a)* children living in poverty and *(b)* households in the lowest quartile of annual income of recovery of tax credits overpayments. [317308]

Mr. Timms: Processes are in place to ensure that the recovery of overpayments does not cause hardship. HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) policy on the recovery of overpayments is set out in the Code of Practice 26 'What happens if we have paid you too much tax credits?', available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/cop26.pdf

Households receiving the maximum tax credits, with no reduction due to income, will have a maximum of 10 per cent. of their award recovered to re-pay an overpayment. Those entitled to the child element above the family element or working tax credit below the maximum award will have a maximum of 25 per cent. of their award recovered in order to repay an overpayment. If a customer cannot meet their living expenses, due to recovery of the overpayment, HMRC may allow more time to repay the overpayment.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to support *(a)* Portsmouth and *(b)* other local authorities in the achievement of the aims of "The Learning Revolution" White Paper. [318435]

Kevin Brennan: Local authorities have a key part to play in achieving the aims of "The Learning Revolution" White Paper. During 2010-11 we will work with the Skills Funding Agency to develop new lead accountable bodies, led by local authorities, to take responsibility for funding and planning informal adult learning in order to strengthen local ownership, widen local partnerships and improve coherence between key policies at the local level.

Funding priorities for 2010-11 are set out in the "Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11", published November 2009. In 2010-11 we will continue to invest £210 million in Adult Safeguarded Learning, reaffirming our White Paper commitments. In the 2009-10 financial year we have invested an additional £20 million in a Transformation Fund which is supporting more than 300 innovative projects to strengthen local infrastructures and widen access to learning for hard-to-reach groups. Funding is supporting two projects in Portsmouth: "Memories are made of this" and the "Portsmouth Informal Learning Project". Portsmouth is also an eligible district for the

Community Learning Champions Support Programme grants and can bid for funding to support a second round project.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what role Adult Safeguarded Learning funds will play in achieving the aims of "The Learning Revolution" White Paper. [318438]

Kevin Brennan: Our funding priorities are set out in the strategy document, "Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11", published November 2009. In 2010-11, we will continue to invest £210 million in Adult Safeguarded Learning—learning for personal, family and community development. This reaffirms our commitment to implementing the vision set out in "The Learning Revolution" White Paper. A new priority will be to encourage Digital Life Skills which can often be embedded with other provision and open up a whole range of new learning opportunities to help thousands of offline adults take their first steps with computers and the internet.

We want every adult to benefit from a wide choice of learning opportunities. Informal learning can make a profound difference to people's lives by developing family and community cohesion, improving people's health and providing a stepping stone towards training and employment. During 2010-11 we will work with the Skills Funding Agency to develop new lead accountable bodies, led by local authorities, to strengthen local ownership, widen partnerships and improve coherence between policies at the local level.

Apprentices: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many modern apprenticeships have been started in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point since 1997. [318107]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts in Essex local authority, Southend-on-Sea local authority, Thurrock local authority and Castle Point parliamentary constituency from academic year 2003-04 onwards, the earliest year for which comparable data are available. Essex is made up of Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock local authorities.

Table 1: Apprenticeship Programme Starts for Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock local authorities and Castle Point parliamentary constituency, 2003-04 to 2008-09

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Essex local authority	4,300	4,100	3,900	4,200	5,000	5,200
Southend-on-Sea local authority	500	500	400	400	500	500
Thurrock local authority	400	400	300	400	500	600
Castle Point Parliamentary Constituency	300	200	200	270	340	400

Notes:
1. Figures for Castle Point Parliamentary Constituency are rounded to the nearest 10, Local Authority figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures are based upon home postcode of the learner.
3. Figures include apprenticeships, advanced apprenticeships and higher level apprenticeships.
4. Essex is made up of Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock Local Authorities.
Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts by parliamentary constituency, local authority, Government Office Region and for England is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 17 December, and re-issued on 21 January to include provisional national estimates of the number of apprenticeship starts and achievements in the first quarter of 2009-10:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrdec09

Apprentices: Per Capita Costs

David Davis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average annual cost to the Government is of an apprenticeship undertaken through the National Apprenticeship Service. [318239]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Children, Schools and Families allocate funding to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for the provision of apprenticeships in England. Planned investment for 16-18 and adult apprenticeships for 2009-10 and 2010-11 financial years is given in the following table.

£000

	Financial year	
	2009-10	2010-11
16-18 apprenticeships	695,000	780,000
Adult (aged 19 and over) apprenticeships	389,914	398,410

Sources:
Adult apprenticeships—BIS Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11, November 2009
16-19 apprenticeships—DCSF 16-19 Statement of Priorities and Investment Strategy 2010-11

Apprenticeships for those aged 16-18 are fully funded by the public purse. For learners aged 19 or over the employer is expected to make a contribution towards the cost of the course.

The public cost of delivering an apprenticeship varies significantly depending on the industry in which the apprenticeship framework is being delivered; whether the framework is at level 2 or 3; and whether the participant is in the 16-18, 19-25 or 25+ age group. For example the LSC estimates that it costs £2,749 to deliver a level 2 adult apprenticeship framework in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools and £4,083 to deliver the level 3 equivalent framework. Between industries the difference in estimated costs can be more marked. LSC estimates that the cost of delivering a level 3 adult apprenticeship in clock and watch repair is £13,409 but the cost of an adult apprenticeship at the same level in business and administration is £3,327.

It is not therefore possible to provide a meaningful average cost to the public purse of an apprenticeship.

Business: Regulation

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the annual cost to businesses of compliance with Government regulations introduced since 27 June 2007 in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* constituency. [318497]

Ian Lucas: In October 2009, the Government published the first Total Benefit/Cost ratio of New Regulations, for all legislation that received Royal Assent or was made by Parliament in the previous financial year, 2008-09. This is summarised in the following table:

Measure	*Quantified equivalent annual benefits (£ billion)*	*Quantified equivalent annual costs (£ billion)*	*Ratio of quantified benefits to costs (rounded)*
The Pensions Act 2008	9.95	9.95	1.00
Primary Legislation	3.13	1.11	2.82
Secondary Legislation	11.20	2.01	5.57
Total	24.28	13.07	1.85

These data were calculated from information provided in published Impact Assessments (IAs) and includes all costs and benefits, not only those to business.

Nationwide data for earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Government do not collate data about regulation such as road closure orders that affect business on a purely local basis. It also does not hold data on national regulation at local authority or constituency level.

Departmental Advertising

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in 2009. [317251]

Mr. McFadden: For advertising spend by the Department in 2009/10 I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 1 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 132W.

Figures for advertising spend for each non-departmental public body could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 15 February 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 9 February 2010, UIN 317251 to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House spent £331,804 on advertising in 2009. The vast majority of this was spent on informing businesses of their obligations under the Companies Act.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 15 February 2010:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how much was spent on advertising by (a) his Department and (b) each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in 2009.

The Insolvency Service did not spend anything on advertising and marketing in 2009.

Letter from John Alty, dated 16 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 09 February 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office, an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, spent £122,000 on advertising in 2009.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 24 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question asking the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, how much was spent on advertising in 2009.

The National Measurement Office spends very little on advertising and such expenditure is not separately identified in our accounting system. In practice, the principal use of advertising would be for recruitment purposes. Any paid advertising of the Agency or its services would be recorded as part of our marketing expenditure. in the Calendar Year 2009 expenditure on external recruitment advertising in total was £11,852.50 and expenditure on marketing activities as a whole was £12,990.42.

Directgov

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress his Department has made on the development of a new consumer space for direct.gov.uk; and when he expects it to be launched. [318520]

Kevin Brennan: A new consumer area on the Directgov website was launched on 16 December 2009 and is accessible at www.direct.gov.uk/consumer . This brings together, in one place, information from BIS and a number of other Departments on consumer rights, with signposts to further guidance on DirectGov such as managing debt, buying and selling a vehicle and environmental advice.

Over the next 12 months, BIS will be working with other Government Departments and partner organisations to enhance this area further with consumer content from across Government, including self-help tools and templates.

Economic Participation Programme

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will monitor the efficacy of the Economic Participation Programme operated under the auspices of the East of England Development Agency; and if he will make a statement. [318200]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Economic Participation Programme is a matter for both the Board of the East of England Development Agency (EEDA), as an arm's length non-departmental public body, and the local authorities that EEDA contract with for the delivery of the sub-regional elements of the programme. An evaluation of the programme, previously known as "Investing in Communities", was undertaken in 2008 as part of an overall EEDA evaluation and a copy has been placed in the Libraries of the House. This evaluation identified that between 2005 and 2008:

> 825 jobs were created; 5,862 people assisted into employment; 92 businesses created; and over 12,800 new skills or qualifications acquired.

Innovation

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the rate of growth of knowledge-intensive industries was in *(a)* rural areas, *(b)* urban areas and *(c)* nationally in each year since 1997. [318426]

Ian Lucas: Gross value added in knowledge-intensive industries and the associated year on year growth for the UK as a whole is detailed in the table below. This corresponds to an annual average growth rate of 5.8 per cent. per annum. Data on a rural versus urban basis are not available.

	Gross value added in knowledge-intensive industries (Constant 2000 prices: £ billion)	*Percentage growth on previous year*
1996	178.8	—
1997	192.6	7.7
1998	211.2	9.7
1999	227.7	7.8
2000	248.0	8.9
2001	259.4	4.6
2002	256.8	-1.0
2003	267.7	4.3
2004	280.9	4.9
2005	294.3	4.7
2006	312.3	6.1
2007	331.3	6.1

Source:
OECD STAN database

Students

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from each UK university have attended a Make it Happen event held by their university [illegible] association with his Department; and how many such students have since enrolled on the self-employment and business start-up programme. [[illegible]924]

Mr. Lammy: The Make it Happen programme is aimed primarily at unemployed graduates, however, students—especially final year students—are not discouraged from attending a Make it Happen event.

The table attached shows the number of graduates and students from each UK university that have attended one of the Make It Happen events at any convenient university and the number of graduates and students who have registered for the subsequent self employment and business start up programmes from their first availability on 24 September 2009 to 10 February 2010.

Table to show the number of students and graduates from each UK university that have attended a Make it Happen event and the number of students and graduates who have registered for the self-employment and business start-up programmes

University	*Attended MIH Event*		*Registered for the SE/BSU programme*	
	Students	*Graduates*	*Students*	*Graduates*
TOTAL	452	1087	148	230
Aberystwyth, University of Wales	2	4	1	1
Anglia Ruskin	0	3	0	0
Aston University	6	18	0	0
Bangor, University of Wales	0	1	0	1
Bedfordshire (Uni of Luton), Uni of Bedfordshire	0	3	0	2
Birkbeck, University of London	2	2	0	1
Birmingham City University	4	13	0	0
Bournemouth University	6	40	6	38
Brunel University	5	8	2	1
Buckinghamshire (Bucks) New University	1	0	1	0
Cardiff University	0	4	0	0
City University, London	1	3	0	0
Coventry University	17	10	1	0
Cranfield University	1	3	0	0
De Montfort University (Leicester)	1	6	1	1
Edge Hill University	0	2	0	0
Falmouth, University College	8	4	8	4
Goldsmiths College, University of London	0	6	0	1
Grimsby Institute of Higher and Further Education	0	2	0	0
Heriot Watt University	0	1	0	0
Imperial College London	7	9	0	1
Keele University	0	2	0	0
King's College, University of London	3	5	0	0
Kingston	31	24	31	14
Lancaster University	0	5	0	1
Leeds Metropolitan University	19	16	15	7
Liverpool Hope University	3	2	0	0
Liverpool John Moores University	0	8	0	2
London Metropolitan University	2	21	0	4
London School of Economics and Political Science	1	4	0	0
London South Bank	0	8	0	0
Loughborough University	0	7	0	1
Manchester Metropolitan University	13	26	1	2
Middlesex University	3	6	3	1
Newcastle University	0	5	0	0
Newman College of Higher Education	1	0	0	0

Table to show the number of students and graduates from each UK university that have attended a Make it Happen event and the number of students and graduates who have registered for the self-employment and business start-up programmes

Table to show the number of students and graduates from each UK university that have attended a Make it Happen event and the number of students and graduates who have registered for the self-employment and business start-up programmes

University	Attended MIH Event		Registered for the SE/BSU programme	
	Students	Graduates	Students	Graduates
Nottingham Trent University	1	4	0	0
Open University London	0	8	0	0
Oxford Brookes University	35	13	0	0
Queen Mary, University of London	2	8	1	1
Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication	0	1	0	1
Robert Gordon University	0	1	0	0
Roehampton University	1	4	1	1
Royal Holloway, University of London	4	1	4	0
Royal Veterinary College, University of London	0	1	0	0
Sheffield Hallam University	27	27	1	3
Southampton Solent University	2	3	2	3
Staffordshire University	0	4	0	1
Surrey Institute of Art and Design, University College	0	3	0	2
Swansea University	0	2	0	0
Thames Valley University	1	5	1	3
The Arts Institute at Bournemouth	0	2	0	0
The Open University	1	1	1	0
Trinity and All Saints College (Leeds)	0	3	0	2
University College for the Creative Arts	2	12	0	4
University College London, University of London	7	7	0	2
University of Aberdeen	1	0	0	0
University of Bath	0	6	0	0
University of Birmingham	4	7	0	0
University of Bolton	9	34	8	31
University of Bradford	2	9	0	4
University of Brighton	18	12	17	10
University of Bristol	0	4	0	1
University of Cambridge	0	4	0	0
University of Central Lancashire	2	13	0	0
University of Chester	0	2	0	0
University of Chichester	0	1	0	0
University of Cumbria	0	1	0	0
University of Derby	17	8	2	1
University of Durham	0	6	0	1

Table to show the number of students and graduates from each UK university that have attended a Make it Happen event and the number of students and graduates who have registered for the self-employment and business start-up programmes

University	Attended MIH Event		Registered for the SE/BSU programme	
	Students	Graduates	Students	Graduates
University of East Anglia	0	1	0	0
University of East London	0	6	0	3
University of Edinburgh	0	2	0	0
University of Essex	0	3	0	1
University of Exeter	3	3	3	1
University of Exeter (Cornwall)	1	0	1	2
University of Glamorgan	0	1	0	0
University of Glasgow	0	1	0	0
University of Gloucestershire	0	2	0	1
University of Greenwich	5	14	0	4
University of Hertfordshire	0	3	0	0
University of Huddersfield	1	6	0	3
University of Hull	1	13	0	3
University of Kent	1	6	0	3
University of Leeds	21	16	3	4
University of Leicester	1	3	0	1
University of Lincoln	10	36	0	2
University of Liverpool	11	13	0	0
University of London	2	3	0	0
University of Manchester	16	19	1	0
University of Northampton	0	3	0	1
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	1	2	0	0
University of Nottingham	10	17	1	3
University of Oxford	0	8	0	1
University of Plymouth	8	9	8	7
University of Portsmouth	14	13	14	10
University of Reading	3	2	3	1
University of Salford	5	11	0	0
University of Sheffield	2	15	0	0
University of Southampton	1	2	1	1
University of St Andrews	0	2	0	1
University of Sunderland	0	3	0	1
University of Surrey - Guildford	26	5	1	1
University of Sussex	2	2	2	1
University of Teesside	1	2	0	1
University of the Arts - Camberwell College of the Arts	0	1	0	0

Table to show the number of students and graduates from each UK university that have attended a Make it Happen event and the number of students and graduates who have registered for the self-employment and business start-up programmes

University	*Attended MIH Event*		*Registered for the SE/BSU programme*	
	Students	*Graduates*	*Students*	*Graduates*
University of the Arts - Central St. Martins	0	3	0	0
University of the Arts - London College of Fashion	0	2	0	1
University of the Arts - London School of Communications	0	3	0	2
University of the Arts London	0	4	0	0
University of the West of England	6	6	0	2
University of Wales Institute, Cardiff	0	1	0	0
University of Warwick	0	9	0	2
University of Westminster	3	8	1	0
University of Wolverhampton	15	19	0	2
University of York	10	9	0	3
York St John University	0	4	0	0
other HE/FE Institution	5	36	2	8

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's definition is of carbon neutrality. [318511]

Joan Ruddock: The Government's definition of carbon neutrality was published in October 2009 and is available on the DECC website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/lc_uk/neutrality/neutrality.aspx

The definition is

> "Carbon neutral means that—through a transparent process of calculating emissions, reducing those emissions and offsetting residual emissions—net carbon emissions equal zero."

Fuel Poverty: South West

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the number of households in fuel poverty in each constituency in Devon and Cornwall. [318664]

Mr. Kidney: The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2006. The following table shows the number of households in fuel poverty in each constituency in Devon and Cornwall:

	Parliamentary constituency	*Number of fuel poor households*
Cornwall	Falmouth and Camborne	6,700
	North Cornwall	10,300
	St. Ives	8,500
	South-East Cornwall	6,500
	Truro and St. Austell	7,400
Devon	East Devon	6,000
	Exeter	4,800
	North Devon	7,800
	Plymouth, Devonport	3,700
	Plymouth, Sutton	7,100
	South-West Devon	3,100
	Teignbridge	6,300
	Tiverton and Honiton	6,500
	Torbay	7,600
	Torridge and West Devon	10,600
	Totnes	6,900

Government Departments: Carbon Emissions

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether there are plans to redefine carbon neutrality targets in respect of Government departments; and if he will make a statement. [318510]

Joan Ruddock: The Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) framework, including the target for central Government to be carbon neutral by 2012, is under review. An announcement on the new framework will be made shortly.

Natural Gas: Storage

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much gas was taken from *(a)* medium, *(b)* long and *(c)* short range storage on each day in February 2010 for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the volume of gas exported to continental Europe on each of those days. [318581]

Mr. Kidney: The table shows the flows of gas out of storage and to and from Europe. This covers the period for which data from national grid (the system operator) were available at the time of searching.

During the period the UK was a net importer of gas from Europe on each day, although there was some cross-trading of gas (importing from the Netherlands while exporting to Belgium) on some days.

The relationship between flows patterns can be complex and reflects underlying supply and demand conditions (and thereby prices) at different times and different markets. Contractual and other factors may also play a role. Attempting to map and compare particular supplies of gas into the market to particular flows out of the market would be misleading; what is important is the aggregate supply and demand position.

During the period the UK was well supplied with gas.

	Withdrawals from long range storage in mcm[1]	*Withdrawals from medium range storage in mcm*[2]	*Withdrawals from short range storage in mcm*[3]	*Exports to continental Europe through the UK in mcm*[4]	*Imports into the UK through UK in mcm*[5]	*Imports into the UK through BBL in mcm*
1 February 2010	44.0	14.2	0.1	13.1	0.0	32.5
2 February 2010	44.2	10.1	0.1	0.0	1.0	30.9
3 February 2010	38.4	7.4	0.1	9.9	0.0	34.0
4 February 2010	30.9	4.6	0.1	0.0	5.4	31.8
5 February 2010	19.5	0.2	0.0	6.5	0.0	32.2
6 February 2010	14.3	1.0	0.0	9.1	0.0	32.8
7 February 2010	17.7	2.0	0.1	7.0	0.0	32.7
8 February 2010	43.4	18.5	0.1	5.5	0.0	32.3
9 February 2010	43.7	23.4	0.2	0.0	3.6	27.7
10 February 2010	43.7	28.7	0.1	0.0	0.6	27.7
11 February 2010	43.8	22.2	0.1	0.0	8.5	27.7
12 February 2010	43.8	13.0	0.0	0.0	6.9	27.4
13 February 2010	37.5	26.9	0.0	0.0	8.3	27.7
14 February 2010	44.5	14.4	0.0	0.0	11.8	27.7
15 February 2010	45.2	11.7	0.1	0.0	11.1	27.6
16 February 2010	42.7	25.3	0.1	0.0	10.4	27.6
17 February 2010	43.4	13.6	0.1	0.0	6.3	31.3
18 February 2010	43.0	15.8	0.1	1.6	0.0	33.1
19 February 2010	43.0	18.6	0.0	11.6	0.0	33.1
20 February 2010	33.2	1.4	0.0	9.0	0.0	32.8
21 February 2010	34.2	2.5	0.1	12.4	0.0	38.4

[1] Long range storage is the Rough facility.
[2] Aggregated end of day flows from: Aldbrough, Hatfield Moor, Hole House Farm, Hornsea and Humbly Grove.
[3] Aggregated end of day flows from: Avonmouth, Glenmavis and Partington.
[4] Exports through the Interconnector; value of 0 assigned to days when the Interconnector was in import mode.
[5] Imports through the Interconnector; value of 0 assigned to days when the Interconnector was in export mode.

Warm Front Scheme

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether tenants with communal heating systems are eligible for participation in the Warm Front programme. [318275]

Mr. Kidney: The provision of measures under the Warm Front scheme to a household will be subject to assessment by the scheme manager in accordance with the regulations which govern the scheme. The scheme includes the provision of a range of heating measures including the provision of a central heating system connected to the local community-heating grid, with no more than six radiators, for qualifying households.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Communication

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 351W, on Equality and Human Rights Commission: public relations, what payments the Commission has made to *(a)* Positif Politics and *(b)* APCO Worldwide since its establishment; on what dates and for what purposes; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the contracts under which such payments were made. [315616]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission has provided the following information about its payments.

(a) Positif Politics

A total of two payments were made to Positif Politics between May and June 2008 for staff training sessions, including seminars on local government elections and the Welsh Assembly legislative system

£233.83 paid 5 May 2008 (£199.00 plus £34.83 VAT)

£233.83 paid 24 June 2008 (£199.00 plus £34.83 VAT)

(b) APCO Worldwide

A total of three payments were made to APCO Worldwide between January and June 2008 for work undertaken during the transition period between May and October 2007 when the new commission was being set up. This included the development of a campaign programme which enabled the EHRC to raise awareness of its profile and highlight its key priorities across a range of audiences

£28,044.02 paid on 16 January 2008 (£23,867.25 plus £4,176.77 VAT)

£28,032.80 paid on 20 February 2008 (£23,857.70 plus £4,175.10 VAT)

£28,059.49 paid on 4 June 2008 (£23,880.42 plus £4,179.07 VAT)

Contracts are Commercial in Confidence and as a consequence will not be placed in the Library.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Business Interests

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality which organisations have received funding from the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) where a Commissioner or employee of the EHRC *(a)* is a member of and *(b)* has a financial or other interest in the organisation concerned. [309946]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) does not collect information pertaining to the membership or other interests of its staff.

The Commission's grant assessment framework requires all staff involved in the assessment process to declare their interests and to abstain from any discussions, debate or assessment related to applications where a conflict of interest might arise.

Of the 61 organisations to be funded in 2009-10, staff interests were declared in relation to the following five organisations:

The Lesbian and Gay Foundation
Lincolnshire YMCA
Living Options Devon
Families Need Fathers
The Runnymede Trust

However none of the staff involved in the assessment process had a financial interest in any organisation funded by the Commission.

The Commission does collect information pertaining to the membership or other interests of its Board of Commissioners.

One member of the Board of Commissioners had an interest in a funded organisation in 2009-10 (as chief executive of Stonewall). This interest was declared and the Commissioner was not involved in the grant assessment panel, the Grants Committee, or any other board level decisions on grant funding.

Eight new Commissioners' appointments took effect on 4 December 2009 and the register of interests pertaining to these individuals is being compiled. However, these Commissioners played no role in the round of grant-making referred to.

Faith Schools

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether provision will be included in the Equality Bill to permit any publicly funded faith schools to require teaching staff to promote the ethos of the relevant religious faith; and if she will make a statement. [318476]

Maria Eagle: We would expect all staff at schools to act in accordance with the ethos of their school, as we would expect them to maintain standards of behaviour and a high educational standard.

The Equality Bill maintains exceptions contained in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA), which permit faith schools to discriminate on religious grounds in relation to certain staff. These exceptions are different according to the different types of maintained faith schools.

Voluntary aided schools may apply religious criteria to all applicants to teaching posts. Voluntary controlled and foundation schools are required to have reserved teachers who are appointed specifically to teach religious education. These reserved teachers must be appointed for their fitness and competence to teach religious education according to the tenets of the relevant faith; they may account for up to a fifth of all the teaching staff and may include the head teacher. In these schools such religious criteria cannot be applied to any other teaching posts.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether provision will be included in the Equality Bill to empower governors of any publicly funded faith school to decline employment to staff or applicants for teaching posts who are not prepared to teach pupils in accordance with the ethos on values of the relevant religious faith. [318477]

Maria Eagle: The Equality Bill maintains exceptions contained in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA), which permit faith schools to discriminate on religious grounds in relation to certain staff. These exceptions are different according to the different types of maintained faith schools. Voluntary aided schools may apply religious criteria to all applicants to teaching posts.

Voluntary controlled and foundation schools are required to have reserved teachers who are appointed specifically to teach religious education. These reserved teachers must be appointed for their fitness and competence to teach religious education according to the tenets of the relevant faith; they may account for up to a fifth of all the teaching staff and may include the head teacher. In these schools such religious criteria cannot be applied to any other teaching posts.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of schools that have received Building Schools for the Future funding have been *(a)* rebuilt, *(b)* remodelled and *(c)* refurbished. [316585]

Mr. Coaker: Of 146 schools that have benefited from Building Schools for the Future funding, 91 are deemed to be new build (built on 70 per cent. or more of the floor area). This provides for 62 per cent. of the total number of schools.

14 schools have benefited from major remodelling (50-70 per cent. of floor area) and 16 from minor remodelling (20-50 per cent. of the floor area). This provides for 21 per cent. of the total number of schools.

Six schools are deemed to be refurbished (0-20 per cent. of the floor area). This provides for 4 per cent. of the total number of schools.

19 schools (13 per cent.) have received funding for ICT only.

Citizenship: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people in Hemsworth constituency have received lessons on citizenship since that subject was made part of the national curriculum. [316714]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Citizenship is a part of the national curriculum which is compulsory for all pupils registered at maintained secondary schools. We do not collect data on the delivery of any curriculum subject and therefore cannot say how many young people have received lessons on citizenship in Hemsworth since it became a compulsory subject in 2002.

Class Sizes: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average staff to pupil ratio is in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Milton Keynes. [315372]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The following table provides the pupil:adult ratios for local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Milton Keynes local authority, January 2009.

Within school pupil:adult ratio (PAR)[1] in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools. Year: January 2009. Coverage: Milton Keynes local authority

	PAR
Primary	11.3
Secondary	10.1

[1] The within school PAR is calculated by dividing the total full-time equivalent (FTE) number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of all teachers and support staff employed in schools, excluding administrative and clerical staff.

Source:

School Census

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any written instructions have been provided to the Accounting Officer for his Department and its predecessors in accordance with paragraph 5.5 of the Ministerial Code since May 1997. [315315]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: I can confirm that no written instruction has been provided from Ministers to the Department's current Accounting Officer or his predecessors, since May 1997, in respect of an action that could be considered to breach the requirements of propriety or regularity.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost to the public purse was of the principal staircase connecting the ground floor and the restaurant at his Department's offices at Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith street. [302667]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The costs incurred for the staircase to link the ground floor and lower ground floor, where the Department's meeting rooms, library, restaurant and drop-in work facilities are situated, was £191,917. The work increased the usable floor area of the lower ground floor by 13 per cent.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* associated non-departmental public bodies plan to sign up to the 10:10 campaign for cutting carbon usage in 2010; and if he will publish the (i) criteria and (ii) research upon which such a decision will be taken. [312568]

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the *(a)* Department, *(b)* agencies and *(c)* non-departmental public bodies for which he has responsibility intend to sign up to the 10:10 campaign for cutting carbon usage; and if he will publish the research or criteria on which decisions about participation in the campaign have been based. [312471]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: DCSF Headquarters (comprising our main buildings at Runcorn, Darlington, Sheffield and London) has signed up to the 10:10 campaign for cutting carbon usage. Information is not held centrally on whether the Department's non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) intend to sign up.

Within the Department, there is support from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for the 10:10 climate campaign. Trajectories for carbon savings are monitored as part of reporting DCSF progress towards meeting Sustainable Development in Government carbon reduction targets. A review of the portfolio of projects targeted at reducing carbon considered projected CO_2 savings for 2010 sufficient to meet the 10:10 campaign for cutting carbon usage.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in 2009. [318051]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The cost for consultants, both for the Department and its non-departmental public bodies and executive agencies, cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will break down the proposed £350 million of savings from his Department and its non-departmental public bodies, as referred to on page 110 of the pre-Budget report, Cm 7747; and if he will make a statement. [307592]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: While we have yet to determine exactly how these additional savings will be delivered, we will be working across the Department and with our NDPBs to identify the most effective way to achieve them without damaging outcomes for children, young people and families yet to determine.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department and its predecessor in each year since 2003. [306454]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: In the Department the following amounts were paid as non-consolidated performance related awards in each year since 2003.

Performance year	Total of non-consolidated payments (£ million)
DFES	
2003-04	1.5
2004-05	1.8
2005-06	1.9
2006-07	2.1
DCSF	
2007-08	1.9
2008-09	1.9

The information for 2003-04 to 2006-07 refers to the former Department for Education and Skills (DFES).

Non-consolidated performance payments are subject to strict criteria in line with the Government's policy on public sector pay. Senior civil service non-consolidated payments are determined as part of a central performance management framework managed by the Cabinet Office. Payments for other grades are subject to the pay remit process and reflect previous pay settlements. Non-consolidated performance payments have to re-earn each year and do not add to future pay bill costs (e.g. pensions) and are an integral element of the reward package for staff.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest non-consolidated performance-related payment in cash terms was for senior civil servants in his Department and its predecessor, in each of the last five years. [308056]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested is set out in the following table:

£

	(a) average non-consolidated performance related payment for senior civil servants	*(b)* highest non-consolidated performance related payment for senior civil servants
2007-08	9,753	25,000
2008-09	8,732	15,000

The information for 2005-07, for the former Department for Education and Skills (DfES), is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate costs. Non-consolidated performance payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award for members of staff who demonstrate exceptional potential, for example by exceeding targets or meeting challenging objectives. The percentage of the pay bill set aside for performance-related awards for the senior civil service is based on recommendations from the independent senior salaries review body. Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs.

Departmental Responsibilities

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many meetings Ministers and officials in his Department have had with members of the public in the last three years. [317050]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of people on a regular basis as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland of 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 292W, on education maintenance allowance, if he will direct the acting chief executive of the Learning and Skills Council to send a copy of the letter to the Editor of the Official Report for publication. [317136]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) received, on 9 February, a copy of the letter Geoff Russell, the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) acting chief executive, sent to my hon. Friend the Member for Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland (Dr. Kumar) with the information requested. A copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Free School Meals

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of students in *(a)* Romford and *(b)* the London borough of Havering are eligible to receive free school meals. [315908]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information is shown in the table.

Maintained nursery, primary[1] and state funded secondary[1,2] schools: Number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3], As at January 2009

	Nursery and primary schools[1]			*State funded secondary schools[1,2]*		
	Number of pupils[4]	*Number of pupils eligible for FSM*	*Percentage of pupils eligible for FSM*	*Number of pupils[4]*	*Number of pupils eligible for FSM*	*Percentage of pupils eligible for FSM*
Havering local authority	19,190	2,280	11.9	16,640	1,500	9.0

Maintained nursery, primary[1] and state funded secondary[1,2] schools: Number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3], As at January 2009

	Nursery and primary schools[1]			State funded secondary schools[1,2]		
	Number of pupils[4]	Number of pupils eligible for FSM	Percentage of pupils eligible for FSM	Number of pupils[4]	Number of pupils eligible for FSM	Percentage of pupils eligible for FSM
Romford constituency	6,880	770	11.2	4,540	440	9.7

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Those eligible may choose not to take up their offer of a free school meal for various reasons, e.g. through preference or through non-attendance on the day. Pupils are counted as eligible only if they meet the eligibility criteria and make a claim.

[4] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Gifted Children: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in Salford have participated in gifted and talented programmes in each year for which information is available. [317389]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Through the School Census, schools are asked to confirm the number of gifted and talented pupils they have identified.

The tables show the number and percentage of children identified as gifted and talented in the Salford local authority in the January census between 2006, when the question was first asked, and 2009.

2006 records include Secondary G&T pupil data only. Otherwise, figures include Primary[1] and Secondary[1,2] school data broken down by the number[3] and percentage of gifted and talented pupils.

[1] All data include middle schools as deemed.

[2] All data include City Technology Colleges and Academies.

[3] All data show solely registered pupils only.

Salford local authority

As at January each year

	Maintained Primary Schools		State-funded Secondary Schools		Primary and Secondary Schools	
	Number of gifted and talented pupils	Percentage of gifted and talented pupils	Number of gifted and talented pupils	Percentage of gifted and talented pupils	Number of gifted and talented pupils	Percentage of gifted and talented pupils
2009	1,310	6.9	1,076	9.6	2,390	7.9
2008	800	4.2	1,360	11.9	2,160	7.1
2007	820	4.3	1,610	13.5	2,430	7.9
2006	—	—	1,500	12.1	1,500	12.1

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

A data table showing information for all local authorities in England has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Learning Disability: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps have been taken to improve educational outcomes for children with *(a)* moderate and *(b)* severe learning difficulties in Salford; and what vocational training opportunities are available to such people. [311672]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Salford has been focusing on narrowing the gap in achievement between all pupils with special educational needs (SEN) and their peers, working with schools on using the inclusion development programme, which improves the skills of the workforce in meeting the needs of children with SEN and preparing to roll-out progression guidance, which supports schools in setting high expectations for what children with SEN should achieve.

Salford's special schools are increasingly providing outreach support to mainstream schools to build their capacity and better support their pupils.

Salford is also part of the Greater Manchester Challenge and is benefiting from additional investment to extend the great practice that already exists within the city region, finding innovative methods and local solutions to crack the cycle of disadvantage and educational underachievement.

As a result, Salford has narrowed the gaps between pupils with SEN and their peers at both key stage 2 and key stage 4. The percentage of pupils with SEN making three levels of progress across key stage 3 and 4 has also risen significantly.

The LSC has invested funding into a variety of projects which focus on improving educational outcomes in Salford. It is recognised that a high proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) when they leave school will have SEN. Current projects include:

Providing additional support and personalised learning programmes to young people who, during key stage four, are identified as becoming at risk of disengaging from learning.

Working with learners in an individual way through foundation learning to deliver clear progression pathways; and

Engagement with employers to develop supported work placements and training and to provide progression routes for learners with more complex learning difficulties and/or disabilities. It will also help partners to build capacity and provide adult learners with opportunities to develop their skills.

The funding set aside for expenditure on SEN in 2009-10 by Salford LA is £23,803,000[1].

[1] These figures include the Individual Schools' Budget for special schools, spending in maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools identified as "notional SEN", the centrally retained element of the school budget, and the SEN element of the LA budget.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to ensure that teaching of personal, social, health and economic education meets the specific needs of *(a)* deaf and *(b)* disabled children. [312704]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Children, Schools and Families Bill currently before Parliament will make personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education statutory. We will be discussing with the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency and with external organisations, including those representing special educational needs and disability, on the support teachers will require to implement the statutory requirements.

For the current non-statutory framework at key stages 1 and 2, the Training and Development Agency has produced a training toolkit "Including Pupils with SEN and/or Disabilities in Primary PSHE and Citizenship". The toolkit explains how teachers need to anticipate the barriers to taking part and learning particular activities, what lessons or a series of lessons may pose for pupils with particular SEN and/or disabilities; and how teachers need to consider ways of minimising or reducing those barriers so that all pupils can fully take part and learn. It includes advice on pupils with sensory needs and pupils with disabilities.

Primary Education: Pupils

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils attended primary schools with more than *(a)* 400, *(b)* 500, *(c)* 600, *(d)* 750 and *(e)* 1,000 pupils in the most recent year for which figures are available. [316182]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information is in the table.

Maintained primary schools[1]: number of pupils by size of school[2], as at January 2009 in England

	Number[3]	*Percentage*
Total number of pupils	4,074,890	100.0
Pupils attending schools with >400 pupils	1,091,840	26.8
Pupils attending schools with >500 pupils	307,850	7.6
Pupils attending schools with >600 pupils	170,340	4.2
Pupils attending schools with >750 pupils	24,990	0.6
Pupils attending schools with >1,000 pupils	0	0.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes solely registered pupils.

[3] Pupils included in schools with more than 500 pupils are also included in schools with more than 400 pupils, and so on.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

School Meals: Finance

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2009, *Official Report,* column 1072W, on school meals: finance, what political and policy opinion formers were identified by the stakeholder mapping exercise of the School Food Trust; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the desk research report produced by Tetra Strategy. [315278]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: This information is not held by the Department and is a matter for the School Food Trust. Following the hon. Member's previous question, the terms of reference were placed in the Library.

Schools: Health Hazards

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has made an assessment of the merits of ensuring that there are no wireless device radiations in *(a)* schools and *(b)* child-care centres. [316541]

Mr. Coaker: The Department considers the merits of wireless device radiations in schools or child care centres on the basis of assessments and advice provided by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). The HPA advises the Government in relation to the protection of communities from radiation hazards, including those associated with exposure to non-ionising radiation such as the radio waves from wireless communication systems. The HPA concluded that there is no consistent evidence to date that exposure to radio waves from wireless networks adversely affects the health of the general population and that there is no reason why schools and others should not use wi-fi equipment.

Schools: Standards

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* secondary schools, *(b)* pupil referral units and *(c)* special schools (i) were in the National Challenge and (ii) had been in the National Challenge for more than (A) one year, (B) two years and (C) three years on the latest date for which information is available. [316721]

Mr. Coaker: Currently there are 247 secondary schools below the National Challenge benchmark (less than 30 per cent. of pupils achieving five A*-C grade GCSEs including English and maths). The programme started in June 2008 and therefore no secondary schools have been in receipt of National Challenge support for more than two years.

However, of the 247 schools currently below the benchmark, 168 have been below this level for over two years, 147 for over three years and 133 for over four years.

Pupil referral units and special schools are not supported by National Challenge as the programme only supports maintained mainstream schools.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* secondary schools, *(c)* pupil referral units and *(d)* special schools (i) were in special measures, (ii) had been in special measures for more than a year and (iii) had been in special measures for more than two years on the latest date for which information is available. [316723]

Mr. Coaker: Data on schools in Ofsted categories are published termly by Ofsted. The latest data were published on 24 November 2009 and provide information on schools in categories as of 31 August 2009. The following table provides the information on the numbers of institutions placed in the Ofsted category of special measures, and the length of time institutions have been in that category. This information can be accessed at:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research

Number of institutions in special measures as at 31 August 2009

	(a) Primary schools	*(b)* Secondary schools	*(c)* Pupil referral units	*(d)* Special schools	*Total*
(i) Total schools	131	44	11	7	193
(ii) 1+ years	53	17	3	2	75
(iii) 2 + years	3	2	0	1	6

Sure Start Programme

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Sure Start centres have been opened since 2005 *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Milton Keynes; and how much capital funding has been allocated to such centres. [311248]

Dawn Primarolo: Please see table 1 for the Sure Start children's centres designated since 2005.

Table 1

	Milton Keynes	*England*
2005	1	254
2006	2	603
2007	5	836
2008	4	1,029
2009	6	471

Note.
This table does not include centres designated before 2005. At the end of December 2009 there were a total of 3,381 designated Sure Start Children's Centres including 19 centres in Milton Keynes.

The Department allocates capital funding for Sure Start children's centres and their predecessor Sure Start local programmes to local authorities. It is for local authorities to decide how to allocate the grant flexibly to best meet their local objectives.

In 2004 local authorities received a two year allocation (2004-06). Since 2006-07 all children's centres capital formed part of the main capital block of the Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant. Please see table 2 for the Milton Keynes and national capital allocations from 2004-06 and 2009-10.

Table 2

	Milton Keynes	*England*
2004-06	512,168	320,870,605
2006-07	1,330,667	272,254,576
2007-08	2,579,838	545,033,570
2008-09	1,647,002	81,000,006
2009-10	2,263,493	169,000,002

Taxis

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on taxi fares in each of the last five years. [309922]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Details of the expenditure on taxi fares for financial years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 is set out in the following table:

	£
2008-09	319,519
2007-08	247,738
2006-07	268,857
2005-06	113,810

The expenditure is based on staff travel claims and approved invoices received from taxi companies paid via the Department's accounts payable system. Expenditure on taxi travel in the financial years prior to 2005-06 was recorded under a general heading of "travel expenses" and is not separately identifiable for these years.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007 as a result of Machinery of Government change, and the expenditure recorded here, prior to this date, relates to that of its predecessor department, the Department for Education and Skills.

Truancy: Gifted Children

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils with gifted and talented status were classed as persistent truants in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2003, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [316856]

Mr. Coaker: The following table shows the number of pupils identified as gifted and talented with the number and percentage of those pupils who were classed as persistent absentees for 2006/07 and 2007/08, the most recent year for which data are available.

Persistent absence includes both authorised and unauthorised absence. Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

Information on persistent absentees is not available for 1997 and 2003.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2] persistent absentees within the gifted and talented cohort[3, 4]: England

	Number of gifted and talented enrolments[5]	Number of gifted and talented enrolments who are persistent absentees	Percentage of gifted and talented enrolments who are persistent absentees	Percentage of all enrolments who are persistent absentees
2006/07	639,000	10,250	1.6	4.1
2007/08	704,620	9,320	1.3	3.6

[1] Includes city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).

[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[3] Persistent absentees are defined as having 64 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year, typically over 20 per cent. overall absence rate.

[4] Pupils who were identified as gifted and talented at the time of the spring census. Where gifted and talented information was missing in the spring census, information collected in the summer census has been used.

[5] Number of pupil enrolments in schools. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between five and 15, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school).

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Youth Taskforce

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the remit of the Youth Taskforce is; how much his Department has allocated to the programme for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; what measures he uses to assess the performance of the taskforce; what activities it is undertaking; and if he will make a statement. [311231]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government established the Youth Taskforce to prevent and tackle the antisocial and offending behaviour which can blight communities and ruin lives. The Youth Taskforce works across Government and with partners up and down the country to strengthen local delivery of services for the most challenging and vulnerable young people.

The current Youth Taskforce Programme Budget is £21.916 million in 2009-10, although this figure could change following completion of the Spring Supplementary procedure and should not be considered final. The indicative Youth Taskforce programme budget for 2010-11, reflected in the Department's Programme Budget Control System, is currently £12.296 million although it is expected to increase to approximately £22 million once funding for the cross-Government Youth Crime Action Plan is confirmed. The Youth Taskforce programme budget is one part of the broader cross-Government investment to tackle youth crime and antisocial behaviour.

The Youth Taskforce Action Plan and the Youth Crime Action Plan set out the Government's approach to preventing and tackling youth crime and antisocial behaviour. The Youth Taskforce is driving delivery of both Action Plans, working with more than 80 local authorities and their partners across the country to ensure that every area can deliver an appropriate response to the needs of vulnerable young people. The most recent Youth Taskforce Progress Report is available at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/ytf

The work of the Youth Taskforce contributes to a continued reduction in the number of first-time entrants to the criminal justice system aged 10-17 (PSA 14), and in the number of people who consider young people hanging around to be a problem (British Crime Survey). There are ongoing evaluations of all Youth Taskforce programmes. Final reports are due in March 2011, and will be published thereafter.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 25 February 2010

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason the Rural Payments Agency has decided to carry out remote sensing mapping induction in Gloucestershire; what the average time taken to process information gathered by the process is; for what reason such processes have delayed the award of single farm payments; and if he will take steps to expedite any payments so delayed. [317706]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* All European Union member states have a requirement to inspect at least 5 per cent. of single payment scheme (SPS) applications each scheme year to confirm eligibility.

The majority of these eligibility inspections are carried out by RPA using remote sensing. Remote sensing uses very high resolution satellite images to check the land area in a selected zone and then to check it matches what the farmer has claimed for on the SPS application form. The geographical zones to be inspected are selected as far as possible in counties not having been previously selected and this explains why part of Gloucestershire has been included. Claims in these zones are targeted using a risk-based approach.

RPA employs a specialist contractor to undertake preliminary checks using remote sensing. When the findings reach RPA, they are checked against the SPS claim and the Rural Land Register (RLR) and then if necessary conveyed to the farmers concerned. In previous years remote sensing inspection cases have generally been paid later in the regulatory payment window, which closes on 30 June. This year and because RPA has been more successful in paying farmers earlier non payment of remote sensing cases appears more pronounced.

Owing to the complex and scientific nature of analysing thousands of hectares of land cover and topography using satellite imagery, RPA inevitably discovers instances where it is difficult to interpret what the imagery is showing, for example because of atmospheric conditions or apparent land use and management changes, which require further clarification with the farmer. This year has also been more complex because of the work to update all of the boundaries, position and accuracy of the land in the RLR.

RPA must ensure that findings from these inspections are taken fully into account before a claim can be paid, which often necessitates ongoing communications with farmers to reach an accurate outcome. Because of the range of checks on claims' some will inevitably take longer than others to complete. Remote sensing processing is being carried out as quickly as possible and RPA is working to make these payments as soon as possible.

Poultry: Animal Feed

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the *(a)* public health and *(b)* moral and religious implications of undisclosed elements of pork and beef being fed to chickens. [318786]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have received no recent representations on these subjects.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

National Heritage Memorial Fund

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding the National Heritage Memorial Fund received from the public purse in each of the last three years. [318017]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 23 February 2010]:* The grant in aid funding figures for the National Heritage Memorial Fund received from my Department in each of the last three full financial years are in the table.

Financial year	*£ million*
2006-07	5.0
2007-08	10.0
2008-09	10.0

Public Libraries: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the reason was for the time taken for his Department to determine the application of Birmingham city council for a certificate of immunity from listing in respect of its proposal to redevelop Birmingham Central Library; and for what reason his Department has declined to release documents relating to that decision in response to an application under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [318137]

Margaret Hodge: The Birmingham Central Library case involved a great deal of detailed consultation and careful consideration of high volumes of correspondence before a decision could be reached.

All departmental responses to freedom of information requests are handled within the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Where exemptions apply, a full explanation is provided to the applicant.

Radio

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he made of the revenue which would accrue to the Exchequer in circumstances in which Ofcom re-auctioned the three existing independent national radio licences. [317595]

Mr. Bradshaw: An assessment of the potential revenue was made in the impact assessment which accompanied the draft Digital Economy Bill. This is available at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/digitalbritain_impactassessment.pdf

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Register: Expenditure

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 326W, on electoral register: expenditure, how much was spent on each type of initiative on electoral registration referred to in the answer in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [318592]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that the figures given in the previous answer were the total expenditure for registration objectives as recorded in its resource accounts for 2007-08 and 2008-09. The Commission further informs me that the expenditure is not recorded by activity in its accounts and that it is not possible to provide the detailed information sought without incurring disproportionate cost.

SCOTLAND

Carbon Sequestration

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the potential effects on the energy industry in Scotland of proposals on carbon capture and storage. [318695]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend and I hold regular discussions with ministerial colleagues across Government about a wide range of issues. The Energy Bill allows for the introduction of a carbon capture and storage incentive to support the construction of up to four UK commercial-scale demonstration projects.

Trade: Scotland

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with Ministers in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on international trade in Scotland. [318509]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues.

The Scotland Office worked closely with DEFRA on the recent Scotch Whisky Regulations 2009. The regulations came into force on 23 November last year and provide a significant step forward in providing extra protection for an important Scottish industry. These regulations will help safeguard Scotch whisky from unfair and deceptive practices and will help protect whisky customers across the globe.

JUSTICE

Industrial Disputes: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many industrial tribunal cases are outstanding in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point. [318109]

Bridget Prentice: The allocation of claims to an Employment Tribunal office is determined by the postcode of the respondent against whom the claim has been brought. Employment Tribunal claims against respondents based in the county of Essex are dealt with by the Bury St. Edmunds, East London and Watford Employment Tribunal offices. Claims against respondents based specifically in the borough of Castle Point are dealt with by the East London Office.

The following table shows the number of live claims held in each of the offices covering the county of Essex at 31 January 2010:

	Number
Bury St. Edmunds	3,349
East London	5,320
Watford	2,599

Source:
Tribunals Service internal management information

Claimants from Essex or Castle Point may have brought claims against respondents outside Essex and these claims may be held in other offices depending on the address of the respondents. Statistical information is not collated centrally in relation to such cases.

Prisoners: Nationality

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many serving prisoners convicted of each type of offence are recorded as having no nationality, broken down by length of sentence. [317170]

Claire Ward: On 30 June 2009, there were 68,375 prisoners under immediate custodial sentence in England and Wales, including 156 prisoners whose nationality was not yet recorded.

The following table shows these 156 prisoners by type of offence and sentence length.

	Less than or equal to six months	*Six months to less than 12 months*	*12 months to less than four years*	*Four years to indeterminate*	*Indeterminate*	*Total*
Burglary	1	1	6	8	0	16
Drug offences	0	0	4	12	0	16
Fraud and forgery	5	5	14	1	0	25
Motoring offences	3	0	1	0	0	4
Offence not recorded	5	0	3	3	0	11
Other offences	6	3	2	1	1	13
Robbery	0	0	5	2	0	7
Sexual offences	0	0	1	7	8	16

6	Less than or equal to six months	Six months to less than 12 months	12 months to less than four years	Four years to indeterminate	Indeterminate	Total
Theft and handling	5	3	5	0	0	13
Violence against the person	2	2	12	8	13	36

Note: These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Voting Rights

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department plans to bring forward legislation to change the law which prevents prisoners from voting in general elections. [318409]

Mr. Wills: The Government have recently undertaken the second stage consultation on this issue. We are currently considering the responses. The Government will then consider the next steps towards implementing the judgment in legislation.

Prisons: Drugs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of illicit drug seizures within prisons was attributed to *(a)* sniffer dogs, *(b)* closed circuit television, *(c)* strip searches, *(d)* intimate searches, *(e)* searches of prison cells and *(f)* police intelligence in each of the last five years. [317397]

Maria Eagle: Information is not recorded in the format requested and would require requests for and detailed analysis of data returns from all prisons in England and Wales. To do so would incur disproportionate costs.

The combination and extent to which these methods have been used to seize drugs is specific to individual prisons, and will have varied over time as priorities and tactics have changed and evolved.

Local searching strategies are based on an individualised assessment of risk while containing mandatory actions set out in the National Offender Management Service's (NOMS) National Security Framework. NOMS searching policy is based on: common law principles of decency; human rights principles of necessity and proportionately; and not subjecting prisoners to degrading treatment.

An intimate search is defined as a manual search of buccal, anal and/or vaginal cavities. Intimate searching runs a significant risk of causing internal damage, particularly where the subject is non-compliant. Only qualified medical practitioners or registered nurses are able to undertake an intimate examination and will do so only with consent and for health-related reasons.

NOMS policy on searching in prisons does not permit intimate searches to be conducted. Where prison staff suspects internal concealment, the prisoner may be placed in confinement until the item is produced and/or referred to health care whenever there are concerns about health, for example, due to the concealment of drugs.

Public Sector: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 734W, on public sector: disclosure of information, if he will list each of the 57 primary requests that have been accepted by the Unlocking Service; and what the status is of each. [318341]

Mr. Wills: The following 57 requests to the Unlocking Service were accepted:

Asset	*Status*
DEFRA News	Part resolved
Royal Mail PAF	Unresolved
Driving Theory Test Questions	Part resolved
UKMO rainfall radar and lightning sferics location data	Part resolved
Planning Inspectorate: Decisions on rights of way orders for Wales	Unresolved
Post Office name, address and opening times	Unresolved
Civil Service Yearbook	Unresolved
National Land and Property Gazetteer and Scottish National Gazetteer	Unresolved
School Performance Tables	Resolved
Highways Agency Roadworks and improvements	Unresolved
Output from UKMO numerical weather prediction models	Resolved
National Planning Appeals	Unresolved
Schools database (EduBase)	Resolved
UK Parliament Bills	Unresolved
Efficiency and Fairness White Paper	Resolved
London Gazette Supplements	In progress
Electoral Boundary Data	In progress
HM Court Service Case Law	Unresolved
Ordnance Survey Points of Interest data	In progress
Primary School counts	Resolved
COI News Distribution Service	Resolved
Ordnance Survey Administrative Boundaries	In progress
HSE Health and Safety Information	Resolved
National Public Transport Dat[illegible]sitory	Resolved
Local Authorities: Registration [illegible]icts and register offices	Unresolved
Civil Service Yearbook	Unresolved
DEFRA Bluetongue Clinical Signs Images	Part resolved
Sitefinder mobile phone mast locations	Unresolved
Consultations of various departments	Resolved
Local Authorities Licensed premises	Unresolved
Local Authorities Planning Applications	Unresolved
Government Expenditure	Resolved
Companies House Company Information	In progress
NHS Choices API	Part resolved
Postcodes to Administrative Areas	In progress
National Land and Property Gazetteer	Unresolved
National Street Gazetteer	Unresolved
Information Asset Registers	Resolved
Headcount for NHS PCTs	Unresolved
UK Patent Data	In progress
DfID Aid Information	In progress
URI Addressable Resources of various departments	Part resolved
Open DRM for Maps	In progress
RESTful API for NHS Choices	Unresolved
Companies API	Part resolved
Ordnance Survey Administrative Areas	In progress

Asset	*Status*
OS Data on Google Maps	Unresolved
Ministry of Justice FOI Statistics	In progress
Photographs of Lords and MPs	Unresolved
School Inspections Database	Unresolved
Train Timetable Information	Unresolved
Royal Mail Address Data	Unresolved
Council Tax Valuation List	Unresolved
HSE Health and Safety Publications	Resolved
Childcare facility waiting data	In progress
Welsh Statutory Instruments	Unresolved
Welsh Assembly Record of Proceedings	Unresolved

Youth Justice Board

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of the Youth Justice Board's expenditure was spent on purchasing custodial places in 2008-09. [318441]

Maria Eagle: The cost of custodial places currently includes payment for education provision. In respect of certain establishments, it also includes contributions to primary care trusts for health provision.

For the financial year 2008-09 the cost to purchase places and regimes for children and young people in the secure estate was £297,952,000 which equates to 63 per cent. of their annual budget.

The data contained in this answer is taken from the published YJB annual accounts.

TRANSPORT

Channel Tunnel: Safety

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what research his Department is undertaking in respect of the safety aspects of the two recent major incidents in the Channel Tunnel. [318763]

Chris Mole: The Channel Tunnel Intergovernmental Commission acts for and on behalf of the British and French Governments to supervise all matters relating to the operation of the Channel Tunnel, including safety.

The Channel Tunnel Intergovernmental Commission is advised by the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority on all matters relating to safety.

Departmental Buildings

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many members of staff of *(a)* Directly Operated Railways and *(b)* East Coast Trains occupy office space in his Department. [318677]

Chris Mole: At the moment there are three full-time and two part-time Directly Operated Railways staff based at the Department for Transport's Marsham street offices. In addition, two non-executive directors also use these offices for up to two days each month.

From the 6 May, Directly Operated Railways staff will be based at offices in Kemble street which are not Department for Transport premises.

There are no East Coast staff occupying space in the Department for Transport offices.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the executive agencies for which he is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in (i) his Department and (ii) the executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [317898]

Chris Mole: The following table details how many and what proportion of staff in the Department for Transport and its Executive agencies are declared disabled; and what the average salary is of full-time declared disabled staff, full-time non-disabled staff, part-time declared disabled staff and part-time non-disabled staff.

	Disabled	*Non-disabled*	*Disabled staff as percentage of known disability*	*Full-time disabled average salary (£)*	*Full-time non-disabled average salary (£)*	*Part-time disabled average salary (£)*	*Part-time non-disabled average salary (£)*
DFT(C)	90	1,770	4.7	31,020	36,080	0	32,500
DVLA	980	4,760	17.1	17,730	17,730	17,730	17,730
DSA	150	2,490	5.6	24,320	24,320	22,790	22,450
GCDA	10	310	2.2	24,740	24,740	0	23,070
HA	160	2,780	5.3	23,070	22,630	22,550	22,550
MCA	90	790	9.7	22,330	24,370	24,980	18,620
VCA	0	140	0	0	31,210	0	19,610
VOSA	90	2,430	3.7	26,710	24,710	16,000	19,560

These data are based on returns made by Government Departments and agencies to ONS for the reference date of 31 March 2009.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Snow and Ice

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of recent adverse weather on the delivery of car tax renewal notices to motorists; how many have been delayed; and what the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's policy is on this matter. [318746]

Paul Clark: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's policy is to send out vehicle tax renewal reminders around three weeks before the existing tax disc expires.

This gives customers plenty of time to get a new tax disc. The agency's online and telephone based tax disc services are available 24 hours a day to ensure that customers need never miss the deadline for taking action.

Renewal reminder notices are sent as a courtesy. The registered keeper of a vehicle is responsible for ensuring it is correctly licensed, even if a renewal reminder is not received. Our assessment is that there is no evidence that reminders were unduly delayed during recent bad weather and that 3 million motorists licensed their vehicles during January.

Electric Vehicles

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what research *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have commissioned on the reliability of electronic systems fitted in vehicles in the last five years. [318756]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport or its agencies has not commissioned any specific research to look at the reliability of vehicles' electronic systems. However, under harmonised European construction rules electronic vehicle systems such as braking and steering are assessed for potential failures and any effect they may have on the safe operation of the vehicle.

Government Car and Despatch Agency: Internet

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reasons the Government Car and Despatch Agency has no contact details on its website. [318343]

Paul Clark: The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) publishes its contact details on its website:

www.dft.gov.uk/gcda

Within the 'Contact Us' section, telephone numbers for GCDA departments are shown.

E-mail addresses and contact telephone numbers are shown at the end of each of the GCDA product/service pages.

Motor Vehicles: Safety

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) on what date the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency was informed by Toyota of the possibility of the need to recall certain models of the Prius motor car; and if he will make a statement; [318755]

(2) what discussions he has had with representatives of the Toyota Motor Company on reported faults with the Prius model; and if he will make a statement. [318759]

Paul Clark: On 1 February 2010, the Vehicle Safety Branch (VSB) of the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) held a meeting with Toyota GB to discuss the Toyota accelerator pedal matter.

The Vehicle Standard Branch raised at the same time the issue concerning the braking system fitted to the Toyota Prius. Toyota GB advised that its parent company was conducting an investigation and agreed to keep VSB informed.

Toyota GB believed this to be a brake pedal issue during brake application and the intervention of the ABS on low friction road surfaces rather than a safety defect. The Vehicle Standard Branch engineers conducted extensive tests and concluded that there was no safety defect.

On 9 February 2010 Toyota GB informed VSB of their intention to treat this matter as a recall. Keepers of 8,500 Prius vehicles in the UK will be contacted to submit their vehicle to a dealer who will re-programme the Anti Lock Braking System software. Toyota GB informed VSB that as of 22 February 2010, 1,258 vehicles have been fixed.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many vehicles failed an MOT test for incorrectly adjusted headlamps in the last five years. [318757]

Paul Clark: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) does not record this specific information and to find this information would result in disproportionate cost being incurred.

VOSA publishes MOT failures by categories in its Effectiveness Report. Incorrectly adjusted headlamps would be recorded within the Lighting and Signalling category along with other related failures. Figures for the last three years are listed in the table.

Table A 3.2 Failures of vehicles which included a lighting and signalling defect as a percentage of vehicles tested at MOT stations

	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07
Total tests	29,691,015	28,742,618	27,805,830
Class 1 and 2 motorcycles percentage of tests	8.9	8.9	8.7
Class 3 and 4: cars and light vans up to 3,000kg (percentage)	18.9	18.8	18.2
Class 5: Private passenger vehicles with more than 12 seats (percentage)	19.7	19.5	19.0
Class 7: Goods vehicles between3,000 and 3,500 kg gross vehicle weight (percentage)	43.1	43.6	42.3

Notes:

1. A failed vehicle for a lighting and signalling defect often has more than one failure item.
2. The percentage shows the percentage of the defect category against the total number of tests carried out.
3. Figures before 2006-07 are recorded in a different format.

Official Cars

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 420W, on official cars, how many such cars were available for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior civil servants in 1997-98; and what the annual cost was of providing the service in that year. [318194]

Paul Clark: The Government Car and Despatch Agency holds no historical information for that period and this could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Railways: Fines

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport to what use fines received from train operating companies as a result of franchise breaches are put. [318676]

Chris Mole: No fines have been imposed on train operating companies since the Department for Transport assumed responsibility for rail franchising, as the Government have instead sought appropriate passenger benefits from the train operator concerned, at a financial cost to the operator.

PRIME MINISTER

2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Prime Minister how many staff of his Office attended the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. [318778]

The Prime Minister: None.

Official Residences

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1070W, on official residences, on what date the squatters who occupied the property at the beginning of December 2009 left the ministerial residence of South Eaton Place; whether the police or courts were used to secure occupation; and what steps have been taken to secure the property in future. [318301]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

Following a court order the persons illegally occupying South Eaton Place vacated it on 13 December 2009. The property is for sale.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many and what proportion of staff in the Government Olympic Executive are disabled; and what the average salary in the Government Olympic Executive is of *(a)* full-time disabled staff, *(b)* full-time non-disabled staff, *(c)* part-time disabled staff and *(d)* part-time non-disabled staff. [317903]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Olympic Executive (GOE) reports to me through the permanent secretary at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). GOE will be included within the answer provided by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at DCMS.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much her office has spent on entertainment in each of the last five years. [318472]

Tessa Jowell: My office has been in existence since June 2007. In the reporting year 2007-08 £1,215 was spent on entertainment, in the reporting year 2008-09 £717.05 was spent. Figures for 2009-10 will not be available until the end of the reporting year.

Olympic Games: Canada

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many staff of the Government Olympic Executive attended the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver; and whether she attended. [318779]

Tessa Jowell: Four members of the Government Olympic Executive have attended the 2010 Winter Olympics. It is planned that a further four officials will attend the Paralympics. They are participating in the observer programmes which run throughout the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games.

I attended the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games from 10 to 18 February, with my private secretary, a press officer and a special adviser. This provided an invaluable opportunity to study at first-hand Vancouver's experience in staging an Olympic Games and to learn lessons for London 2012.

Overseas Aid: Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much was spent on humanitarian assistance programmes in each of the last five years. [318624]

Tessa Jowell: The role of my Humanitarian Assistance Unit is to:

ensure that the needs of British people affected by major emergencies are acted on within Government in building preparedness for and responding to major emergencies; and

act as an advocate for victims and their families within Government and beyond.

Expenditure on humanitarian assistance programmes in each of the last five years is as follows:

	£
2005-06	549,000
2006-07	366,500
2007-08	312,500
2008-09	277,500
2009-10 (to date)	217,000

In addition, the Government provided:

£1 million to the British Red Cross in 2006-07 to set up the Relief Fund for Victims of Terrorism; and

£1 million to the Royal Parks for the 7 July memorial in Hyde Park.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Warm Front Scheme: Eaga

18. **Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will review the effectiveness of the role of Eaga in the allocation of grants under the Warm Front scheme. [318599]

Mr. Kidney: All applications to Warm Front will be considered by the scheme manager, Eaga, in accordance with the regulations which govern the scheme. The assistance provided to qualifying households will depend on their circumstances and the range of measures available. Work is allocated to those installers appointed under the scheme to work in the local area. The Department has an independent quality assurance contract in place to verify the work of the scheme manager.

Gas Storage

20. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much additional gas storage capacity he expects to be available in the UK by 2012; and if he will make a statement. [318561]

22. **Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much additional gas storage capacity he expects to become available in the UK by 2012. [318564]

Mr. Kidney: I refer the hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change gave to the hon. Member for Bracknell (Mr. Mackay) earlier today.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

21. **Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many miners' claims relating to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease remain to be settled; and when he expects the compensation scheme to end. [318562]

Mr. Kidney: The Department has settled over 590,000 chronic obstructive pulmonary disease claims to date. A further 1,762 claims remain to be settled of which less than 270 have yet to receive an offer. The Department aims to settle these claims by end of December 2010, although some claims involve protected parties and may take longer to resolve.

Carbon Capture and Storage

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to secure progress in the post-competitive phase of the carbon capture and storage programme. [318542]

Edward Miliband: I expect to announce shortly which consortia will be selected following detailed scrutiny to undertake the tens of millions of pounds-worth of work for the front-end engineering and design for the first CCS demonstration project, the necessary work prior to construction. Later this year, we will also open the competition for the three other projects, to be funded under the CCS Incentive. The latter is, of course, dependent on the successful passage of the Energy Bill.

Energy Management Strategy

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to publish his Department's household energy management strategy. [318552]

Joan Ruddock: The Government consulted on their plans for improving the energy efficiency of existing homes from February to May last year. We had over 300 responses to that consultation, from a wide variety of organisations and individuals, expressing a broad range of views.

In response to that consultation, our Strategy for Household Energy Management will be published very shortly.

Coal: Electricity

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will give additional support to promote the use of co-firing of biomass in coal-powered electricity generation. [318563]

Mr. Kidney: Co-firing, along with other eligible renewable electricity generation technologies is supported under the renewables obligation.

In October 2010 we will start the first scheduled banding review for all eligible renewables technologies supported under the renewables obligation.

This will include reviewing at the level of support for co-firing of biomass and energy crops in fossil-fuelled generation.

Environmental Technologies

Mr. Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps he has taken to increase the use of new environmental technologies; and if he will make a statement. [318558]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has a range of policies in place that will increase the use of new environmental technologies by driving carbon emission reduction. These policies include the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, our carbon budgets, and the carbon reduction commitment.

Recent steps to increase the use of new environmental technologies include Feed In Tariffs; the Renewable Heat Incentive and the Low Carbon Communities Challenge.

Natural Gas: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure the security of the UK's gas supply in the event of proposed industrial action at Milford Haven; [318463]

(2) on what dates he discussed Unite's proposed industrial action at Milford Haven with officials from Unite; [318464]

(3) what representations he has received on the likely effect on the security of gas supply of industrial action by Unite at Milford Haven; [318465]

(4) what representations he has received on the likely effect of industrial action by Unite at Milford Haven on imports of crude oil and refined products. [318466]

Mr. Kidney: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has been closely following events at Milford Haven Port Authority over the past few weeks. My officials have been in regular contact with the operators of LNG import facilities and refineries in the area to understand the implications of possible industrial action. We have also been in contact with national grid to discuss the potential implications for UK's gas supply. Officials have maintained close communication with port authority management to follow developments and, between 1 and 23 February, Ministers and officials have spoken on a number of occasions with senior representatives from Unite to seek their assessment of the dispute.

DECC recognises the strategic importance of the port to the energy industry and has urged the parties concerned to do everything possible to reach a resolution to the dispute whilst recognising that the issues under negotiation are a matter for the management and employees of the port authority. We welcome the announcement that the industrial action at Milford Haven port scheduled to start on 23 February has been averted and are pleased that consultation is under way on proposals which we hope will lead to an agreement.

My officials and I will continue to monitor developments closely and I urge the parties concerned to seek a swift and sustainable agreement to the dispute.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much funding his Department has allocated for *(a)* year end and *(b)* in-year bonuses for its staff in 2009-10. [307023]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) operates three non-consolidated performance payment schemes: an in-year, special performance scheme (to reward particularly meritorious contributions during the year); an end-of-year performance payment scheme for staff below the Senior Civil Service (SCS) (to reward performance and delivery throughout the previous year); and a performance payment scheme for SCS staff, which is an integral part of the pay arrangements in operation in all Whitehall Departments.

The annual costs of the end-of-year performance payment scheme for staff below Senior Civil Service is £348,300. This equates to 0.54 per cent. of the pay remit available to those staff eligible to participate in the scheme.

In respect of performance payments for Senior Civil Service for 2009-10, the NIO will, as usual, await the advice of the Senior Salaries Review Body and Cabinet Office Guidance.

The funding allocated to the in-year special performance scheme equates to 0.4 per cent. of the pay remit available to those staff eligible to participate in the scheme. The funding for the 2009-10 year was set at £258,000.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will publish the travel guidance issued to staff of each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies. [315033]

Paul Goggins: Most of the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies follow travel policy/guidance issued by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO).

The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission have their own guidance document and the Northern Ireland Prison Service follow the guidance contained in the Northern Ireland Civil Service Handbook.

I will place in the Library of the House copies of travel guidance documents.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many turbines other than those delivered in September 2008 are operational at Kajaki dam; in what year such turbines were installed; and what the volume of electricity output has been of such turbines in the last five years for which figures are available. [311001]

Chris Bryant: I have been asked to reply.

There are two turbines operational at Kajaki dam, which were installed between 1972 and 1975. In 1975, the dam began to produce electricity for the Helmand Valley and Kandahar. It produces 33 mega watts of power.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the turbine delivered to Kajaki dam by UK forces in September 2008 is not functioning; whether that turbine has functioned since its delivery; when he expects that turbine to function; and if he will make a statement. [311003]

Chris Bryant: I have been asked to reply.

The turbine delivered in September 2008 requires other materials, namely mechanical and construction equipment, to make it functional. These have not yet been moved to the Kajaki area. While the dam does not operate to its full capacity, currently it does provide electricity to the population of Helmand. Two generators are in place and being used, along with diesel-powered local generation, to increase supply. While the security situation in the area makes access and delivery to Kajaki challenging, supplies, including oil, are being delivered. USAID, the US federal government agency responsible for the US effort in the field of development and reconstruction, is leading the work on the refurbishment of the power station. They continue to plan to make the facility fully operational.

Armed Forces: Housing

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of each grade of his Department's single living accommodation housing stock in Scotland was empty in each of the last five years. [317784]

Mr. Kevan Jones: We record details of void bed-spaces which are defined as those which are available but not currently required for occupation by single Service personnel. Separate figures for Scotland are not available.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current shortfall is of *(a)* reservist and *(b)* regular (i) medical, (ii) nursing and (ii) paramedic staff. [309014]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 6 January 2010]*: The latest available data are provided in the following tables:

Defence Medical Service Regulars—Manning as at 1 October 2009

	Requirement	*Trained strength*	*Shortfall (percentage)*
Medical officers	818	476	42
Nurses	1,900	1,500	21
Medical support services	4,083	3,882	5
Dental officers and allied dental healthcare professionals	777	764	2
Total	7,578	6,622	13

Notes:
1. Requirement excludes the manning and training margin.
2. Trained strength only includes personnel that are qualified in their speciality.
3. 'Medical Support Services' include the paramedic cadre.
4. Dental officers and allied dental healthcare professionals includes dental practitioners, dental support officers, dental surgery assistants and dental technicians.

Defence Medical Service Reserves—Manning as at 1 October 2009

	Requirement	*Trained strength*	*Shortfall (percentage)*
Medical officers	1,001	408	59
Nurses	863	553	36
Medical support services	2,316	1,535	34
Dental officers and allied dental healthcare professionals	58	31	47
Total	4,238	2,527	40

Notes:
1. Dental officers and allied dental healthcare professionals includes dental practitioners, dental support officers, dental surgery assistants and dental technicians.
2. 'Medical Support Services' include the paramedic cadre.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many people of each occupation are employed as personal staff for the Director General Land Warfare; [316934]

(2) how much his Department has spent on personal staff for the Director General Land Warfare in the last 12 months. [316935]

Bill Rammell: Director General Land Warfare has access to a pool of staff as part of a garrison-wide contract. He shares the use of one gardener and one domestic assistant to maintain his service family accommodation with the whole garrison of about 2,000 people. As such their staff duties are not solely dedicated to Director General Land Warfare. This is within MOD guidelines on proportionate staffing levels for the post.

The contract value of the support provided to Director General Land Warfare was valued at approximately £1,200 per month from February 2009 to January 2010.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many performance reviews were undertaken in respect of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; in how many cases performance was rated as unsatisfactory or below; how many staff left as a direct result of such a rating; and what percentage of full-time equivalent staff this represented. [313834]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held in the format requested.

Other than certain medical grades, all MOD civilian staff are required to participate in an annual performance review process. If performance is identified as unsatisfactory—at any point in the reporting year—individuals may be subject to the restoring efficiency process, which involves warning the individual, encouraging improvement, and allowing a reasonable opportunity to improve. If a satisfactory performance is not achieved, the individual may be dismissed or downgraded. The number of staff dismissed for unsatisfactory performance in each financial year was as follows:

	Total
2004-05	12
2005-06	12
2006-07	12
2007-08	4
2008-09	2

These figures include staff in MOD agencies but exclude Trading Funds and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans' badges have been issued to former members of the armed forces since the badges were introduced. [318256]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As at 19 February 2010, 770,324 Veterans Lapel Badges have been issued to former members of the armed forces and their entitled dependants since their introduction on 10 April 2004.

Hercules Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many search and rescue operations took place beyond the standard operational range of the Hercules aircraft in the last five years. [318838]

Bill Rammell: None. The UK has responsibility for search and rescue operations within a specified area, which includes the north Atlantic, extending out to 30 degrees west. Hercules aircraft are capable of covering the entirety of the UK search and rescue area of responsibility.

Incapacity Benefit: Chelmsford

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on substitute accommodation in Scotland for *(a)* service family accommodation and *(b)* single living accommodation in each of the last five years. [316513]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It will take more time to collate and verify the information requested. I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Angus Robertson:

In my answer of 9 February (Official Report, column 811W) I undertook to write to you with details of how much the Department has spent on substitute accommodation in Scotland for Service Family Accommodation and Single Living Accommodation in each of the last five years.

Substitute Service Family Accommodation (SSFA) and Substitute Service Single Accommodation (SSSA) are only ever used as a last resort in cases where service accommodation either does not exist or is not available. SSSA properties may accommodate more than one entitled Service person of the same gender and of an equivalent rank. As part of the value for money programme that I chair, the entitlements of all Ministry of Defence employees are being considered.

The amount spent on SSFA and SSSA in Scotland in each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

	Number of SSFA	*Cost (£ million)*	*Number of SSSA*	*Cost (£ million)*	*Total expenditure (£ million)*
2005	18	0.2	304	2.1	2.3
2006	23	0.2	487	2.5	2.7
2007	26	0.2	585	3.2	3.4
2008	34	0.2	682	3.9	4.1
2009	36	0.3	638	3.8	4.1

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will *(a)* make available to the Iraq Inquiry and *(b)* place in the Library a copy of all legal advice given by his Department to military personnel prior to the beginning of the Iraq war; and if he will make a statement. [318459]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence is providing the inquiry with all the documentation that the inquiry has requested including legal advice. The Department will consider any requests to place documents containing legal advice relating to the Iraq conflict in the Library of the House on a case-by-case basis.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maximum operational range is of the *(a)* MR2 and *(b)* Hercules search and rescue aircraft without air-to-air refuelling. [318837]

Bill Rammell: The Nimrod MR2 and Hercules C130K aircraft perform other tasks aside from long-range search and rescue. We therefore cannot comment on actual capability levels as this is classified information.

The UK has responsibility for search and rescue operations within a specified area, which includes the North Atlantic out to 30 degrees West and both the Nimrod MR2 and Hercules C130K aircraft are capable of covering the entirety of the UK's search and rescue area of responsibility. The maximum time on task is dependent on a wide range of factors including load, configuration and weather, and this can be extended through use of diversions as far afield as Iceland in the north or indeed the Azores in the south. Additionally, the Hercules C130K has the capacity to air-to-air refuel which could significantly extend its time on task if it was required.

Nimrod Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many search and rescue missions were flown from RAF Kinloss using MR2 aircraft in each of the last five years; and what the *(a)* distance and *(b)* duration was of each such mission. [318839]

Bill Rammell: The number of search and rescue missions flown by MR2 aircraft from RAF Kinloss in each of the last five years is provided in the following table:

	Number
2005	28
2006	28
2007	17
2008	25
2009	11

The available information relating to distance and duration of each mission in each of the last five years is provided in the following tables. The distance provided represents the nautical miles from RAF Kinloss to the search and rescue (SAR) task and does not represent the total distance flown. The duration of each mission relates only to the actual search and rescue mission and does not, in every case, represent total flying time.

2005

Distance NM	*Duration (hours/minutes)*
585	04.15
281	03.15
131	02.00
n/a	04.45
576	03.40
589	04.30
443	04.15
592	05.15
313	04.45
742	07.10
307	03.35
303	03.40
370	03.40
480	07.25
194	01.25
212	07.15
174	01.45
607	07.25
584	04.35
1,143	01.45
463	06.35
338	03.50
50	00.40
594	04.30
682	11.30
490	03.50

2005

Distance NM	*Duration (hours/minutes)*
550	03.35
518	05.40

2006

Distance NM	*Duration (hours/minutes)*
157	5:25
899	n/a
537	4:10
448	4:25
257	4:00
598	n/a
267	2:45
506	4:10
334	4:20
334	4:50
599	4:20
333	4:00
535	4:35
605	7:30
80	5:15
357	5:00
162	5:05
446	4:20
738	5:35
384	3:25
601	3:10
437	5:50
225	1:40
540	3:15
207	29:25
275	4:37
615	4:10
117	1:30

2007

Distance NM	*Duration (hours/minutes)*
374	3:00
554	4:45
204	1:05
402	4:00
542	5:00
201	13:30
312	4:10
379	4:30
n/a	2:30
253	2:05
10	2:30
233	3:15
466	6:00
489	5:05
392	2:30
386	4:35
678	4:45

2008

Distance NM	*Duration (hours/minutes)*
496	03.55
377	05.35
586	05.10
152	01.10
451	06.50
258	02.55
575	04.55
441	n/a
501	02.30
n/a	05.25
354	05.20
n/a	04.55
641	00.15
835	05.15
635	05.10
298	n/a
959	05.30
238	02.30
76	00.15
596	03.00
560	04.40
564	04.25
851	06.30
488	03.50
944	14.25

2009

Distance NM	*Duration (hours/minutes)*
170	04.05
368	03.20
69	04.20
559	04.00
443	00.05
1,060	07.00
958	05.30
265	02.50
473	03.40
680	05.35
560	03.30

Nuclear Submarines

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what plans he has for the replacement of MR2s in the protection of the UK's nuclear submarine fleet; [318833]

(2) what the end of service date is of the MR2 aircraft; what plans there are for its replacement; when he expects the MRA4 aircraft to enter service; and if he will make a statement; [318836]

(3) if he plans to lease search and rescue aircraft following the withdrawal from service of the MR2 aircraft. [318840]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Nimrod MR2 will be taken out of service on 31 March 2010, and will be replaced by the substantially more capable Nimrod MRA4. The MRA4 production programme remains unchanged, but the aircraft will be introduced into service at a slower rate as part of a package of key adjustments to the

Defence programme announced on 15 December last year. During the period of transition we intend to use other assets to fulfil its various roles. We do not currently have any plans to lease aircraft to fulfil the long range search and rescue tasks undertaken by the MR2.

I cannot comment on the levels of protection assigned to the Deterrent for reasons of national security.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Civil Society Challenge Fund

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library copies of the proposals received by his Department for funding each project which is to receive funding from the Civil Society Challenge Fund 2010. [317592]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Details for the projects to receive funding from the Civil Society Challenge Fund in 2010 are available on the Department for International Development's (DFID's) website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Signing of grant agreements for 2010 is still subject to negotiation of financial and other arrangements and the usual DFID approval procedures.

Haiti: Earthquakes

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have had with (i) politicians and (ii) officials in Haiti on the role the UK can play in the reconstruction of that country. [318157]

Mr. Michael Foster: Reconstruction on such a vast scale is best led multilaterally. The Government of Haiti have asked the World Bank and United Nations to be the joint international leads on this, and we expect the other international financial institutions, the European Commission and Haiti's major bilateral donors also to have a strong role. The United Kingdom is and will remain a major contributor to multilateral funding and in that role fully expects to attend the main reconstruction conference in New York at the end of March.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the *(a)* aid and *(b)* other assistance provided by his Department to the people of Haiti since the earthquake in that country. [318158]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) assessment team provide daily field reports on the developing humanitarian situation in Haiti, to inform departmental decisions on funding and strategic choices. These situation reports are published on the DFID website for members of the public to view.

Overseas Aid: Asylum

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has allocated to support work with refugees from *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Afghanistan, *(c)* Sudan, *(d)* Somalia and *(e)* Rwanda in 2009-10. [318006]

Mr. Michael Foster: To date, in 2009-10 the Department for International Development (DFID) has provided a core contribution of £19 million to the UN Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to work with refugees worldwide.

DFID has also provided earmarked funding to UNHCR to support refugees in specific countries. In 2009-10 this has included £1.5 million for humanitarian assistance in Iraq and £2 million for Somali refugees in Kenya.

Rwanda: HIV Infection

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to *(a)* ensure local HIV positive survivors of the Rwandan genocide continue to receive targeted support and *(b)* support local organisations in Rwanda in providing services to HIV positive genocide survivors after March 2010. [317224]

Mr. Thomas: Since 2006 the Department for International Development (DFID) has funded a £4.25 million Care and Treatment of Survivors Programme (CTP) targeting victims of genocide who are HIV positive.

From March 2010 this programme will be managed by the Government of Rwanda. DFID worked closely with the Rwandan Ministry of Health (MoH) and genocide survivors' local organisations to ensure that HIV positive survivors will continue to receive targeted support from the Global Fund through government systems.

DFID will continue to support Rwanda's health and social services system, including its specialised services to genocide survivors, through Sectoral Budget Support and General Budget Support. DFID's monitoring and policy dialogue with the government will provide a means of ensuring that services to HIV positive genocide survivors continue to be provided after March 2010.

TREASURY

Banks: Loans

Willie Rennie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent assessment he has made of the performance of banks in meeting his Department's mortgage lending requirements; [318816]

(2) what percentage of the lending targets for financial institutions set by his Department has been reserved for support for first-time buyers in the housing market. [318818]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government agreed lending commitments with Lloyds Banking Group and the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) in February 2009. Under these legally binding agreements, Lloyds committed to lend an additional £3 billion and RBS an additional £9 billion to households on commercial terms (and subject to market demand) over the 12 months from March 2009.

The Government will report annually to Parliament on the delivery of these commitments.

The lending commitments include qualitative commitments on first-time buyers. For example, they require both these banks to ensure that they market products to first-time buyers including mortgage products of up 90 per cent. loan to value.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to support first-time buyers in the housing market. [318817]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In England, the Government's key objective for housing is to ensure everyone has access to a decent home at a price they can afford. The Government remain committed to the delivery of affordable housing, including through both shared equity and shared ownership schemes. Since 1997 the Government have helped more than 110,000 households in England into low-cost homeownership through shared ownership and shared equity.

The Pre-Budget Report 2009 announced that the Government would increase the Development of HomeBuy Direct Homes in 2010-11, delivering an investment of over £150 million in HomeBuy Direct that year and an increase of 3,000 homes above the original target of 10,000 for England. Additionally, the Government announced that housing for first-time buyers would be priorities within the Kickstart Housing Delivery Programme. Further information on Government measures to help homebuyers in England is available at

www.realhelpnow.gov.uk

Decisions concerning whether to engage in lending to support shared equity or shared ownership remain commercial decisions for firms. Where there is public sector investment in financial institutions these stakes will be managed on an arm's length and independent basis by UK Financial Investments Ltd.

Housing policy is devolved in Scotland and the Devolved Administration in Scotland has its own policies to assist first-time buyers; further information is available at

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/BuyingSelling/lift

Dunfermline Building Society

Willie Rennie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the sums paid from the public purse to *(a)* consultants, *(b)* accountants, *(c)* legal advisers and *(d)* other financial advisers for work connected with management of the assets of Dunfermline Building Society. [318671]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the letter sent to him dated 11 January 2010 from Lord Myners, a copy of which will be placed in the Libraries of the House of Commons and House of Lords.

Government Departments: Procurement

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what proportion of central Government procurement is not co-ordinated through the Office of Government Commerce; [318243]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1145W, on Government departments: procurement, what proportion of Government expenditure on goods and services was undertaken via collaborate procurement programmes in 2009; and if he will list each professional buying organisation and the amount of Government expenditure in each such case. [318313]

Ian Pearson: Management information from December shows that 47 per cent. of categorised central Government expenditure was undertaken through collaborative procurement in 2009-10.

A list of professional buying organisations can be found in Annex C of the Operational Efficiency Programme report Collaborative Procurement which was published in December 2009. Details of Government expenditure through professional buying organisations is not held centrally.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Financial Secretary to the Treasury plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Billericay of 11 January 2010 on his constituent, Mr. Toomey. [318678]

Mr. Timms: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Non-Domestic Rates

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many hereditaments there are with a rateable value of *(a)* under £5,000, *(b)* between £5,000 and £14,999, *(c)* between £15,000 and £24,999, *(d)* between £25,000 and £49,999, *(e)* between £50,000 and £99,999, *(f)* between £100,000 and £499,999 and *(g)* at least £500,000; and what the total rateable value is of hereditaments in each category. [317018]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* The following data are as at the 2 November 2009 and extracted from the information published by the Valuation Office Agency on the 18 December 2009.

These data are consistent with the statistical release titled: 'Non- domestic rateable values: 2010 Local Ratings Lists-England and Wales', published on 18 December 2009. A copy of this statistical release is available at the following link:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/VOA_Statistics_Release_Final.pdf

Draft 2010 Rating List as at 2 November 2009

Hereditaments (thousand), RV (£ million)

	England		Wales		Total	
	Number hereditaments (thousand)	Total rateable value (£ million)	Number hereditaments (thousand)	Total rateable value (£ million)	Number hereditaments (thousand)	Total rateable value (£ million)
Below 5,000	601	1,497	48	115	649	1,612
Between 5,000 and 14,999	568	5,018	32	274	600	5,292
Between 15,000 and 24,999	189	3,629	9	174	198	3,803
Between 25,000 and 49,999	167	5,798	7	254	174	6,052
Between 50,000 and 99,999	96	6,661	4	279	100	6,940
Between 100,000 and 499,999	82	16,411	3	655	86	17,066
500,000 or over	13	17,360	0	607	14	17,966
Total	1,717	56,373	104	2,358	1,821	58,732

Public Expenditure

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 932-3W, on the strategic investment fund, whether the £100 million of new funding was raised through borrowing; and from which budgets the £100 million from departmental re-prioritisation was drawn. [318429]

Mr. Timms: The £100 million from the Exchequer for the Strategic Investment Fund is funded through an additional spending allocation in 2010-11. The Government's forecast for borrowing in 2010-11 derives from forecasts of net expenditure less net receipts in that year. The £100 million not funded by the Exchequer will be funded equally from the Department for Business Innovation and Skills and the Department for Transport's 2010-11 Budgets.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to amend the definition of hardship used by HM Revenue and Customs when considering debt recovery; and whether he plans to align that definition with the definition used by the Department of Work and Pensions. [317303]

Mr. Timms: Neither HM Revenue and Customs nor the Department for Work and Pensions have specific definitions of "hardship" in connection with debt recovery. When considering debt recovery, decisions are made based on the specific facts of each case and against the statutory framework within which each Department operates.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Day Care

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many childcare places have been created in Feltham and Heston constituency since 1997. [316682]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of childcare places is not available for parliamentary constituencies.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* free nursery and *(b)* pre-school places were available for children aged (i) three and (ii) four years old in (A) Essex and (B) Castle Point in each year since 1997. [318091]

Dawn Primarolo: Table 1 shows the number of part-time equivalent places filled by three and four-year-olds in Essex local authority from 1997 to 2009. Table 2 shows the number of part-time equivalent places filled by three and four-year-olds in Castle Point constituency from 2004 to 2009.

The Department publishes information on the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds in maintained, private, voluntary and independent providers. Information on the number of pre-school places is not separately available. Part-time equivalent places are derived by counting children taking up 12 and a half hours per week as one place, 10 hours per week as 0.8 places, seven and a half hours per week as 0.6 places, five hours per week as 0.4 places and two and a half hours per week as 0.2 places. Data at parliamentary constituency level are not available prior to 2004.

Table 1: Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1, 2] filled by three and four-year-olds[4]

	Local authority: Essex	
Position in January each year	Three-year-olds	Four-year-olds
1997	1,600	14,000
1998	1,900	15,000
1999	2,000	15,200
2000	2,000	15,100
2001	2,200	15,100
2002	8,700	15,100
2003	11,500	15,000
2004	11,700	15,000
2005	11,900	14,400
2006	11,900	14,100
2007	12,300	14,100
2008	12,800	14,600
2009	13,000	15,100

[1] A place is equal to 12.5 hours (five sessions) and can be filled by more than one child.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

[3] Prior to 2004, information on early education places was derived from returns made by local authorities as part of the Nursery Education Grant (NEG) data collection exercise. From 2004 onwards, information has been derived from Early Years Census and School Census data.

[4] Age of all children taken at 31 December in the previous calendar year.

Source:

NEG, Early Years Census and School Census

Table 2: Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1] [2] [3] filled by three and four-year-olds[4]

Parliamentary constituency: Castle Point		
Position in January each year	Three-year-olds	Four-year-olds
2004	760	880
2005	690	880
2006	700	850
2007	720	830
2008	780	840
2009	750	870

[1] A place is equal to 12.5 hours (five sessions) and can be filled by more than one child.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

[3] Prior to 2004, information on early education places was derived from returns made by local authorities as part of the Nursery Education Grant (NEG) data collection exercise. These data were collected at local authority level, therefore, data for this parliamentary constituency are not available prior to 2004.

[4] Age of all children taken at 31 December in the previous calendar year.

Source:

Early Years Census and School Census

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 11/2009 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2009", available on my Department's website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000848/index.shtml

Children: Poverty

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what initiatives his Department and its predecessors have taken to tackle child poverty in Salford since 1997. [313322]

Dawn Primarolo: Since coming to office in 1997 the Government have developed a number of initiatives, both nationally and locally, to tackle child poverty. Salford has built on these national policies and developed their own local strategy to drive their child poverty agenda forward. My Department and Salford's local strategies have provided and strengthened family support through universal targeted specialist approaches including:

the Common Assessment Framework;

Children's Centres and Family Intervention Projects to maximise family and parenting support; and

the "Think Family" Pathfinder which encourages family and community learning.

In addition to these initiatives, Salford is benefiting from the new multi-service assertive Outreach Teams and Children's Centres which together are able to provide parents with a range of services.

Children's Centres, in particular, disseminate up-to-date information on job vacancies, education, training and volunteering, and often act as the first "port of call" for those seeking specialist financial advice. Children's Centres provide a liaison point with Job Centre Plus to offer parents information on employment and skills and co-ordinate community-based learning and training. Their work is underpinned and further enhanced by the introduction of 35 community workers and teams of lone parent advisers, who are also located within the centres.

Salford is also part of the Manchester's co-ordinated support for separating parents pilot, one of the eight child poverty pilots being undertaken nationally.

Children: Social Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost has been of each common area assessment of children's services. [307578]

Dawn Primarolo: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 10 February 2010:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

In line with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 Ofsted is charged with providing an annual performance rating for children's services for each local authority area. The children's services rating is a wide-ranging and robust assessment of the outcomes for children and young people that is strongly based on the evidence from Ofsted inspections of early years provision, schools including special schools and Pupil Referral Units, colleges, fostering and adoption services, children's homes, safeguarding and looked after children services inspections.

In addition, as one of the partner inspectorates, Ofsted has contributed to both the organisational and area assessments which together make up the Comprehensive Area Assessment of local areas. The children's services rating is a significant factor in the organisational assessment overall score for each council. For Ofsted and local authority children's services the Comprehensive Area Assessment replaces the annual performance assessment and the joint area review programmes.

The Comprehensive Area Assessment was introduced in April 2009. Consequently costs are provisional and have been estimated for 12 months. Full audited costs will be available from the end of June. Taking into account the time contributed to this work by Her Majesty's Inspectors, data analysts, management and administrative staff, the estimated cost of Ofsted's contribution to the 2009 CAA is £18,829 per local authority. Please note that this estimate does not include any allocation of corporate overhead.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Children's Centres: East Sussex

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children's centres there were in *(a)* Lewes constituency and *(b)* East Sussex in each year since 1997; [308453]

(2) how many children attended *(a)* Sure Start facilities and *(b)* children's centres in Lewes constituency in the last 12 months for which information is available; and how much such facilities cost in that period. [308462]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table details how many designated Sure Start children's centres there were in *(a)* Lewes constituency and *(b)* East Sussex local authority in each year since 2004 (there were none previous to this).

Table 1: Designated Sure Start children's centres

	Lewes constituency	East Sussex
2004	1	7
2005	0	4
2006	0	6
2007	1	11
2008	0	5
2009	3	[illegible]
Total	5	34

In East Sussex local authority, there are 35 designated Sure Start children's centres which have a combined reach area of over 24,000 children under five and their families. Of these, six are in Lewes constituency and have a reach area of over 5,000 children under five and their families.

Reach area defines those children and families with the opportunity to access Sure Start children's centres. Figures for the number of people actually using children's centres are not collected centrally.

In 2008-09, East Sussex local authority spent £4,119,141 on children's centres revenue funding; £4,189,109 on Sure Start local programmes; and £446,448 on children's centres capital funding. This is the latest 12-month period for which spend figures are available.

The Department allocates funding to local authorities for Sure Start children's centres, and its predecessor Sure Start local programmes, through the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant. It is for local authorities to determine how to allocate the funding between individual centres. The Department does not collect information on how much is allocated and spent at individual centre level.

The allocations for Children's Centres for East Sussex for 2008-09 to 2010-11 are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare grant allocations for East Sussex local authority

	Revenue			Capital	
	Main Revenue Block		SSLP Block	Main Capital Block	
	Children's centres	Total main revenue	Sure Start local programmes	Children's Centres	Total Main Capital
2008-09	3,995,304	7,360,556	3,460,552	698,435	2,771,127
2009-10	5,261,515	8,358,567	3,154,933	1,456,072	3,528,764
2010-11	6,348,245	10,101,509	2,880,240	872,667	2,945,359
Total	3,995,304	7,360,556	3,460,552	698,435	2,771,127

Children's Centres: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has allocated for children's centres in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last three years. [316096]

Dawn Primarolo: Funding for Sure Start Children's Centres is provided to Local Authorities as part of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant (SSEYCG) and is not allocated to individual constituencies. Essex Local Authority is responsible for managing the SSEYCG funding and Children's Centres' performance across their area and will decide how much to allocate to centres in Castle Point.

The funding allocated to Essex for Children's Centres over the past three years is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Children's Centres allocations for Essex local authority, 2007-08 to 2009-10

	Children's Centres Revenue Allocation	Children's Centres Capital Allocation
		(£)
2007-08	7,874,703	[1]12,908,404
2008-09	11,916,047	2,175,268
2009-10	15,750,814	5,751,259

[1] The 2007-08 allocation is for the wider Main Capital Block.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point attend Sure Start centres. [318097]

Dawn Primarolo: The 85 designated Sure Start Children Centres in Essex local authority have a combined reach of over 70,000 children under five and their families. The six centres in Castle Point constituency have a combined reach of around 4,500 children under five and their families. Reach area defines those children and families with the opportunity to access children's centres. Figures for the number of children under five and their families actually attending and using children's centres are not collected centrally.

Children's Centres: Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has allocated for children's centres in Feltham and Heston constituency. [316609]

Dawn Primarolo: Hounslow local authority has been allocated over £31.6m revenue and capital funding to deliver its Sure Start Children's Centres. The Department allocates funding to local authorities for children's centres, and its predecessor Sure Start Local programmes, through the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant. It is for local authorities to determine how to allocate the funding between individual children's centres. The Department does not collect information on how much is allocated at constituency level.

GCSE

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 137W, on academies: sponsorship, what the increase was in the proportion of pupils achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics in 2009 in schools, other than academy schools, which had fewer than *(a)* 50, *(b)* 40 and *(c)* 30 per cent. of pupils achieving this standard in 2008. [312798]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 25 January 2010]*: The requested information is shown in the following table.

	Percentage end KS4 pupils 5+ A*-C including English and maths 2008	Percentage end KS4 pupils 5+ A*-C including English and maths 2009	Percentage point improvement 2008-09
Schools other than academies with fewer than 50 per cent. of end KS4 pupils achieving 5+ A*-C at GCSE (or equivalent) including English and maths in 2008	33	41	+8
Schools other than academies with fewer than 40 per cent. of end KS4 pupils achieving 5+ A*-C at GCSE (or equivalent) including English and maths in 2008	26	31	+5

	Percentage end KS4 pupils 5+ A*-C including English and maths 2008	Percentage end KS4 pupils 5+ A*-C including English and maths 2009	Percentage point improvement 2008-09
Schools other than academies with fewer than 30 per cent. of end KS4 pupils achieving 5+ A*-C at GCSE (or equivalent) including English and maths in 2008	17	23	+6

Note:
Independent and special schools are included in these figures.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many students resident in *(a)* Knowsley, *(b)* Kensington and Chelsea and *(c)* Islington sat a GCSE in (i) physics, (ii) chemistry, (iii) English literature, (iv) history and (v) a modern language in 1997; [316646]

(2) how many students resident in *(a)* Knowsley and *(b)* Kensington and Chelsea sat a GCSE in (i) physics, (ii) chemistry, (iii) English literature, (iv) history and (v) a modern language in the most recent year for which figures are available. [316647]

Mr. Coaker: Consistent information about pupil achievement based on residency is only available for years 2002-03 onwards. Information on whether a pupil has entered GCSEs in chemistry, physics, history and English literature has also only been on the National Pupil Database since the 2003-04 academic year, and on a consistent basis for a modern foreign language since the 2007-08 academic year.

Fifteen year old students[1] resident[2] in (a) Knowsley, (b) Kensington and Chelsea and (c) Islington local authorities who were entered for GCSEs in (i) physics (ii) chemistry (iii) English literature (iv) history in 2003-04

	Number of students[3] entered for chemistry GCSE	Number of students[3] entered for physics GCSE	Number of students[3] entered for history GCSE	Number of students[3] entered for English literature GCSE
Knowsley	[illegible]	[illegible]	467	1,654
Chelsea	26	29	145	501
Islington	25	23	369	1,280

[1] Aged 15 on 31 August 2003.
[2] Students attending maintained schools only including City Technology Colleges and Academies.
[3] Based on students with a valid postcode in that academic year.
Source:
National Pupil Database (final data)

Students at the end of Key Stage 4[1] resident[2] in (a) Knowsley, (b) Kensington and Chelsea and (c) Islington local authorities who were entered for GCSEs in a modern foreign language in 2007-08

Local Authority	Number
Knowsley	800
Kensington and Chelsea	270
Islington	605

[1] Number of students on roll at the end of Key Stage 4 in the 2007-08 academic year.
[2] Students attending maintained schools only including City Technology Colleges and Academies.
[3] Based on students with a valid postcode in that academic year.
Source:
National Pupil Database (final data)

Students at the end of Key Stage 4[1] resident[2] in (a) Knowsley and (b) Kensington and Chelsea local authorities who were entered for GCSEs in (i) physics (ii) chemistry (iii) English literature (iv) history and (v) a modern foreign language in 2008-09

Local Authority	Number of students[3] entered for a Modern Foreign Language GCSE	Number of students[3] entered for Chemistry GCSE	Number of students[3] entered for Physics GCSE	Number of students[3] entered for History GCSE	Number of students[3] entered for English Literature GCSE
Knowsley	[illegible]	82	81	425	1,276
Kensington and Chelsea	253	29	29	170	481

[1] Number of students on roll at the end of Key Stage 4 in the 2008-09 academic year.
[2] Students attending maintained schools only including City Technology Colleges and Academies.
[3] Based on students with a valid postcode in that academic year.
Source:
National Pupil Database (amended data)

Home Education

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will recommend an increase in the use of school attendance orders as a method of supporting families with home-educated children. [318522]

Mr. Coaker: No, the usage of those measures is left to the local authorities' discretion.

Pre-school Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much he expects local authorities to spend on delivering the three to four year-old nursery entitlement in 2010-11. [316691]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2008-09 over £4 billion was spent by local authorities on provision for under fives including the free entitlement for three and four-year-olds. This amount is up from around £1 billion in 1997-98.

In 2010-11, funding of £340 million has been made available to local authorities through the Standards Fund to fund the 2.5 hours per week extension to the three and four-year-old free entitlement and flexible delivery.

Local authorities will shortly be submitting their budget plans to the Department for the 2010-11 financial year, as required by section 251 of the Apprenticeships Skills Children and Learners Act 2009.

Schools: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on repairing schools in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each year since 1997; and what proportion of that expenditure was spent on schools which failed to meet standards on acoustics. [318088]

Mr. Coaker: Repairs which bring schools back to their original state constitute a revenue expense, and are paid out of revenue funding. Repairs which amount to capital improvement, such as better insulation, are payable from capital allocations.

School revenue and capital allocations are not made directly to Castle Point, but to Essex county council. School-based revenue expenditure on repair and maintenance is shown in the following table.

		£
	Essex	*England*
1999-2000	14,003,000	631,994,000
2000-01	19,815,000	670,942,000
2001-02	24,214,000	729,882,000
2002-03	14,780,000	503,199,000
2003-04	14,309,000	501,233,000
2004-05	15,794,000	550,301,000
2005-06	15,662,000	608,386,000
2006-07	17,869,000	645,680,000
2007-08	18,993,000	731,938,000
2008-09	20,815,000	738,599,000

Notes

1. Up to 2001-02, the figures cover all expenditure on non-capital building works, including repairs and maintenance of buildings, and non-capital expenditure on fixed plant and grounds.

2. From 2002-03, the definition of the figures is: Building maintenance and improvement, including

Charges by contractors for internal and external repair, maintenance and improvement to buildings and fixed plant including costs of labour and materials; Related professional and technical services, including labour costs where supplied as part of the contract/service; Costs of materials and equipment used by directly employed staff for internal and external repair, maintenance and improvement to buildings and fixed plant; Fixtures and fittings e.g. carpet, curtains, etc.

3. All figures rounded to the nearest £1,000.

Capital allocations by the Department to Essex in each year since 1997-98 are as follows:

	£ million
1997-98	11.4
1998-99	15.5
1999-2000	21.9
2000-01	57.3
2001-02	48.9
2002-03	95.5
2003-04	77.4
2004-05	80.2
2005-06	72.4
2006-07	56.7
2007-08	66.4
2008-09	109.4
2009-10	107.9
2010-11	266.8

Information is not held on the proportion of expenditure spent on acoustic improvements in schools.

Schools: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what capital funding was allocated to schools in Salford in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009; [317390]

(2) how many schools in Salford have been *(a)* rebuilt and *(b)* significantly refurbished since 1997. [317384]

Mr. Coaker: Capital funding allocated by the Department to schools in Salford amounted to: *(a)* £5.5 million in 1997-98; and *(b)* £18.9 million in 2009-10.

Since 1997, the 2007 and 2009 building survey returns received from Salford City Council, show there have been: *(a)* 17 schools (eight Primary and nine Secondary) rebuilt; and *(b)* 14 schools (13 Primary and one Secondary) significantly refurbished. A significant refurbishment is deemed to apply when over 50 per cent. of the school floor area has changed.

Schools: Vocational Guidance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department provides to schools on options to be offered to *(a)* pupils by careers services offered in schools and *(b)* training of staff of such services. [318198]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* In October 2009 we published 'Quality, Choice and Aspiration: A strategy for young people's information, advice and guidance', which sets out a range of resources and support for the school work force, including training and development, to improve the delivery of information, advice and guidance.

Alongside the strategy we published statutory guidance on impartial careers education, setting out how schools must deliver high quality impartial information about learning options that promotes the best interests of pupils. An accompanying resources pack supports schools in implementing the statutory guidance. The provision of careers advice in schools is based on a partnership between the school and the Connexions service and other specialist services commissioned by the local authority. We will shortly consult on draft Directions and statutory guidance for local authorities in the delivery of such services.

Social Services: Doncaster

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what reasons Mr. Mark Hodson gave his Department for leaving his post as Director of Children's Services in Doncaster in 2007. [312794]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* Like all employees Mark Hodson was appointed by Doncaster council in accordance with its recruitment procedures. Similarly Mark Hodson's decision to step down from his post as Doncaster council's Director of Children's Services in 2007 was a matter between Mark Hodson and the council.

Vetting: Local Education Authorities

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Aylesbury (Mr. Lidington) of 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1106W, on schools: vetting, what guidance has been given to local authorities on whether *(a)* lead member councillors and *(b)* other councillors required to register under the vetting and barring scheme will also be required to undergo Criminal Records Bureau checks. [309547]

Dawn Primarolo: No guidance has been issued to local authorities on whether lead members and other councillors who are required to register under the vetting and barring scheme will also be required to undergo Criminal Records Bureau checks. Individual councillors may currently undergo CRB checks because of particular functions they may exercise for the local authority for which they are a member, for example being a member of the local authority's fostering or adoption panel. The Government confirmed in their response to Sir Roger Singleton's report 'Drawing the Line' on the vetting and barring scheme, *Official Report*, 14 December 2009, column 50WS, that they intends to review their requirements for CRB disclosures.

CABINET OFFICE

10 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 401W, on 10 Downing Street: repairs and maintenance, what the nature is of the works that have been undertaken as part of Project George to date. [318302]

Angela E. Smith: The Government are legally required to maintain the Downing Street complex to standards appropriate to its Grade I and II listed status in consultation with English Heritage. In addition to providing office accommodation the building also fulfils an important representational role. The last significant refurbishment works at the Downing street complex were undertaken between 1960 and 1963. As a result much of the infrastructure required renewal or upgrading. Essential improvements are being undertaken through ongoing annual maintenance works.

Cancer: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cancer mortality rate was in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. [318103]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated February 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the cancer mortality rate was in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. I am replying in his absence. (318103)

The table attached provides the age-standardised mortality rate, where cancer was the underlying cause of death in (a) Essex county and (b) Castle Point local authority, in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2008 (the latest year available).

Figures for Essex county do not include deaths in Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock unitary authorities, which were part of the former County of Essex.

Table 1. Age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population[1] where cancer was the underlying cause of death,[3] Essex county and Castle Point local authority,[4] 1997 and 2008[5]

Area	Year	Rate	95% Confidence Interval
Essex	1997	181	(175-187)
	2008	167	(162-172)
Castle Point	1997	192	(167-217)
	2008	167	(147-187)

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[3] Cause of death for cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 140-208 for 1997 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97 for 2008.

[4] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[5] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Census

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what timetable has been set for laying before Parliament and seeking approval for the Census Regulations relating to the 2011 Census; [318125]

(2) what the timetable is for the laying and ratification of the Census regulations for the 2011 Census; and whether they will be subject to positive, negative or hybrid resolution. [318244]

Angela E. Smith: I expect to lay the Census (England) Regulations 2010 before both Houses of Parliament within the next couple of weeks. In accordance with the Census Act 1920, the regulations will be subject to negative resolution.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the contracts let for services relating to the 2011 Census contain break clauses. [318127]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2010:

As the Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking whether the contracts let for the services relating to the 2011 Census contain break clauses. (318127)

Every commercial contract agreed in respect of the 2011 Census programme contains break clauses. This is normal public procurement practice. As the majority of contracts are fixed price, ONS would incur financial penalties if these break clauses were invoked for reasons other than poor contractor performance.

This information was given in answer to a question from Nick Hurd MP, Official Report, 3 December, column 955W.

Charities: Hizb ut-Tahrir

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many investigations under the Charities Act 2006 the Charity Commission has conducted relating to breaches of articles on the grounds of *(a)* political activity and *(b)* providing a platform to Hizb ut-Tahrir and associated groups; and how many (i) mosques and (ii) other charitable organisations have had their charitable status revoked following investigations of each type. [318531]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 23 February 2010:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question (318531) on how many investigations under the Charities Act the Charity Commission has conducted relating to breaches of articles on the grounds of (a) political activity and (b) providing a platform to Hizb ut-Tahrir and associated groups; and how many (i) mosques and (ii) other charitable organisations have had their charitable status revoked following investigations of each type.

Your question refers to 'investigations'. It may be helpful to provide some background information on the way in which we carry out our investigatory compliance work, which has changed significantly over recent years. Prior to our strategic review in 2005, our practice was to carry out all investigations as formal statutory inquiries under section 8 of the Charities Act 1993. We now carry out a wider range of compliance work dealing with problems in charities. This includes assessment cases, monitoring, non-statutory investigations that we call regulatory compliance cases, as well as section 8 statutory inquiries. We now reserve statutory inquiries only for the most serious cases of regulatory concern. Last year, for example, we conducted 1,504 assessment cases and 211 monitoring cases, and completed 167 regulatory compliance cases and 21 statutory inquiries.

The statistical information we hold for the purposes of our investigations is not designed to identify the sort of data you are looking for. However, I have looked at our statistics for both non-statutory investigations and statutory inquiries for the last three complete financial years going back to 2006-07 and can provide the following information.

In relation to (a), we have carried out 29 investigations regarding political activity since 2006-07, out of a total of 736 investigations. These 29 investigations were to examine allegations or concerns about inappropriate political activity and campaigning by charities, or charities making political donations or giving support to a political party. I should point out that revocation of charitable status is not a legal remedy if a charity has broken political campaigning rules. Our role in these cases is to make good the breach (for example, to ensure inappropriate payment by a charity to a political party is repaid) and ensure steps are taken to prevent recurrence.

As you may know, charities can campaign and undertake political activity but cannot have political purposes. If we find that an organisation, although registered as a charity, does in fact have a political purpose, it cannot be a charity in law. In these cases, we would remove the organisation from the Register of Charities because it was never in fact a charity. Our records show that we have removed two charities from the Register on this basis: one in October 2001 and the other in July 2004. Regarding part (i) of your question, I can confirm that neither of these organisations were mosques.

In relation to (b), our statistical information does not allow us to readily identify on a historical basis cases regarding allegations that a charity may have provided a platform to Hizb ut-Tahrir. However, I can confirm that we have no current statutory or non-statutory investigations into such concerns.

I hope this is a helpful response to your question.

Civil Servants: Pay

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which of the jobs advertised on the *(a)* internal and *(b)* public versions of the Civil Service jobs website had salaries of £150,000 or over in the last six months. [318128][1]

Angela E. Smith: Not all vacancies advertised on the civil service jobs site show salary details. Of those that were advertised in the last six months showing salary details, 43 roles fell within the £81,600 to £220,000 salary range.

The total figure of 43 was made up of 11 jobs advertised on the public part of the civil service jobs site and 32 on the internal part of the site.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* the Prime Minister's Office, *(c)* the Office of the Leader of the House and *(d)* the executive agencies for which her Department is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in each (i) Office and (ii) agency is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [317902]

Angela E. Smith: The Prime Minister's Office and the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons are an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

The latest information for which figures are available on the number and proportion of staff that are disabled in Cabinet Office is contained in the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES) statistics published on the Office for National Statistics website and can be found at table '38' at this link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/Civil-service-tables-2009-final.xls

This information is also shown in the following table:

	Number
Number of disabled employees	50
Number of non-disabled employees	690
Number of employees not declared or non-response	590
Total number of employees	1,330
All employees with known disability status	740
Disabled employees as percentage of known disability status	6.8

The latest information from the Office of National Statistics, which is not published, on which figures are available on the median gross annual earnings of full-time and part-time disabled and non-disabled staff in Cabinet Office is detailed in the following table:

	Median earnings (£)	
	Disabled	*Non-disabled*
Full-time	30,000	33,881
Part-time	27,100	27,530

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many designs for its website her Department has commissioned since 2005. [318658]

Tessa Jowell: The Cabinet Office has commissioned one design for its website since 2005.

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[1] *[Official Report, 8 April 2010, Vol. 508, c. 15MC.]*

Employment

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether a recent estimate has been made of the number of *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector employees in each constituency. [318122]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated February 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking whether a recent estimate has been made of the number of (a) public and (b) private sector employees in each constituency. I am replying in his absence. (318122)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Individuals are classified to the public or private sector according to their responses to the APS. Consequently, the classification of an individual's sector may differ from how they would be classified in the National Accounts.

Table 1 shows the number of persons employed in the public and private sectors in each constituency in Great Britain from the APS for the period July 2008 to June 2009. Estimates for Northern Ireland are not available. As the information requested is quite extensive, a copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is given in table 1.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Employment Tribunals Service

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many employment disputes involving staff of her Department have been taken to an employment tribunal in the last four years; and what the *(a)* grounds of dispute and *(b)* outcome was of each. [318246]

Angela E. Smith: There was one employment dispute taken to an employment tribunal in November 2009. The basis of the dispute was unfair constructive dismissal. The claim was dismissed by the tribunal.

Government Departments: Advertising

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate she has made of the proportion of Government advertising expenditure which is not administered by the Central Office of Information. [318119]

Tessa Jowell: This information is not collected centrally. Each Government Department, agency and NDPB is responsible for setting its own communications priorities and outputs, and each Secretary of State is responsible to Parliament.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Chesterfield

Paul Holmes: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many young people aged 16 and 17 years in *(a)* Chesterfield and *(b)* Derbyshire have claimed jobseeker's allowance in each year since 2005. [318765]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated February 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many young people aged 16 and 17 years in (a) Chesterfield and (b) Derbyshire have claimed jobseeker's allowance in each year since 2005. I am replying in his absence. (318765)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. Table 1 shows the number of people aged 16 and 17 resident in Chesterfield parliamentary constituency, Chesterfield local authority and Derbyshire claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) in January 2010 and January of each year since 2005.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons[1] aged 16 and 17 claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in Chesterfield parliamentary constituency, Chesterfield local authority and Derbyshire

	Chesterfield (pc)	*Chesterfield (la)*	*Derbyshire*
January 2005	40	40	135
January 2006	30	30	115
January 2007	20	20	95
January 2008	15	20	85
January 2009	5	5	65
January 2010	5	5	45

[1] Age data are only available for computerised claims, which account for 99.7 per cent. of all claims.

Note:

Data rounded to nearest five.

Source:

Job-centre Plus Administrative System

New Businesses: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many businesses have started up in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point since 1997. [318102]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated February 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many businesses have started up in *(a)* *Essex* and *(b)* Castle Point since 1997. I am replying in his absence. [318102]

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available for 2002 onwards from the ONS release on Business Demography at www.statistics.gov.uk

The following table contains the latest statistics available on business births for Essex and Castle Point.

Enterprise births for Essex and Castle Point 2002-2008

	Essex county	*Castle Point*
2002	6,055	340
2003	6,590	340
2004	6,980	355
2005	6,560	390
2006	6,315	360
2007	6,880	370
2008	6,770	340

Personal Income

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average income of a household in the *(a)* private rented sector and *(b)* social rented sector was in each of the last three years. [316740]

Helen Goodman: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is given in the table for periods where data are available.

In each of the three years those households living in private rented sector accommodation have had higher median incomes than those living in the social rented sector on both a before and after housing basis. This pattern is to be expected as poverty rates tend to be higher for the social rented sector.

Before housing costs, the median household income of private rented sector tenants was between about £360 and £370 per week (between about £250 and £260 per week after housing costs). In the same period the median household income of social rented sector tenants remained fairly constant at around £280 per week (around £210 per week after housing costs).

Median household income by rented sector, 2005-06 to 2007-08, £ per week, before housing costs (BHC) and after housing costs (AHC), in 2007-08 prices, United Kingdom

£

	2005-06		*2006-07*		*2007-08*	
	BHC	*AHC*	*BHC*	*AHC*	*BHC*	*AHC*
Private rented sector	368	257	357	250	365	260
Social rented sector	281	210	281	210	279	211

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey. Both of these documents are available in the Library.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development equivalisation factors.
6. Median incomes have been provided rather than mean incomes because the income distribution is skewed with some outliers with high incomes.
7. Incomes are presented in 2007-08 prices and have been rounded to the nearest pound sterling.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP

Political Parties: Copyright

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what Crown copyright permission has been granted to political parties for the reproduction of artwork or content from the *(a)* Building Britain's Future and *(b)* Real Help Now campaigns. [318245]

Tessa Jowell: None.

Building Britain's Future is a Government initiative and we will ensure that it is not misrepresented by political parties or other organisations.

It is acceptable for other organisations to highlight Government initiatives as long as they are clear that they are Government initiatives. Building Britain's Future and Real Help Now have been referred to by a number of third party organisations in this way.

Public Bodies: Pay

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many officials in each public sector body earn more than £150,000. [312260]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

Individual pay decisions are made by individual public sector bodies and Departments so this information is not held centrally. The Office for National Statistics collects the annual salaries of civil servants, as part of the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES) and I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to him on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1035-1036W.

Following the 2009 pre-Budget report, all public sector bodies subject to direct ministerial control will be required to publish the salary, including benefits in kind and the level of any bonus, of named individuals paid more than £150,000 to the nearest £5,000 and the number of staff paid more than £50,000 in £5,000 increments. The Government will expect other public bodies to comply with this level of disclosure.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Antarctic

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how long on average his Department's Polar Regions Unit took to process an application for a British expedition to Antarctica in the last 12 months. [318674]

Chris Bryant: Our website states that permit applications should be submitted to us as far in advance as possible, and not less than six months before the applicant intends to travel to Antarctica so there is adequate time to work with applicants to resolve any queries and ensure a smooth permitting process. Experience has shown that the time it takes to process an application can vary depending on the type of activities the applicant wishes to complete and the type of permit they are applying for.

In all cases we aim to process applications as quickly as possible following receipt.

Bletchley Park

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to recognise those who worked at Bletchley Park during the Second World War in the last 10 years. [318072]

Chris Bryant: On 9 July 2009 I announced the launch of the Bletchley Park Commemorative Badge, to honour those who worked at Bletchley Park and its outstations during the Second World War. The launch was marked by a special ceremony at Bletchley Park on 9 October 2009, which my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary attended. Since its launch, over 2500 badges and accompanying certificates have been awarded to surviving veterans. In addition to the Commemorative Badge a bound Roll of Honour will be created containing the names of all those that worked at Bletchley Park and its outstations during the Second World War, which will be located at Bletchley Park and on their website.

British Nationals Abroad: Prisoners

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of British citizens who have been subject to *(a)* torture and *(b)* other cruel and degrading punishments consequent upon conviction of criminal offences in overseas jurisdictions. [318153]

Chris Bryant: We are not aware of any British nationals who are currently facing torture or other cruel and degrading punishments consequent upon conviction of criminal offences in overseas jurisdictions. We are opposed to torture and mistreatment in all circumstances. If we have reason to believe that a British national in detention is being mistreated, whether prior to or following conviction, then with the permission of the individual we will take all appropriate action to ensure that mistreatment stops, and that the incident is investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of British citizens who are under sentence of death in other jurisdictions; and what steps he is taking to assist such individuals. [318154]

Chris Bryant: We are currently aware of eight British nationals sentenced to death and a further 26 facing charges which may attract the death penalty. The Government are strongly opposed to the death penalty. We express our opposition to its use on British nationals at whatever stage and level is judged appropriate from the moment when the imposition of a death sentence becomes a possibility.

Burma: Asylum

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his counterpart in the government of Thailand on its proposals to deport Karen refugees back to Burma. [317192]

Chris Bryant: The Government are closely monitoring reports about the possible forced return of Karen refugees to Burma. Our ambassador to Thailand has raised our concerns with the Thai Foreign Minister and with the Secretary-General of the National Security Council stressing the importance of adherence to international standards and to Thailand's international obligations. We understand that the Royal Thai Government decided not to deport the 30 families it had originally identified for removal. We will continue to co-ordinate closely with UN High Commissioner for Refugees, US and EU partners and will continue to raise any concerns with Thai authorities.

David Proctor

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what representations he has received in respect of Mr. David Proctor, a UK citizen who has been refused permission to leave the State of Qatar; [318364]

(2) what representations Her Majesty's Government has made to the Government of the State of Qatar in respect of Mr. David Proctor; what consular assistance has been provided to Mr. Proctor by his Department; and if he will make a statement; [318365]

(3) what investigations have been made by Her Majesty's Government into the circumstances surrounding the detention of Mr. David Proctor by the authorities in the State of Qatar; and if he will make a statement; [318366]

(4) what recent discussions he has had with the Ambassador of the State of Qatar about the detention of Mr. David Proctor in Qatar; [318367]

(5) what plans he has for discussions of the case of Mr. David Proctor with the Ambassador of the State of Qatar; and if he will make a statement. [318368]

Chris Bryant: Our embassy in Doha are aware of Mr. Proctor's case and have been providing consular assistance. The embassy has also expressed concern about the length of time it is taking to resolve his situation. Since the end of January our ambassador in Qatar has met with Mr. Proctor and has had two subsequent telephone conversations with him. Our consul has also had two separate meetings with him, and Mrs. Proctor had two meetings with consular staff during her recent visit to London. We will continue to stay in touch with Mr. Proctor and the Qatari authorities.

Our embassy in Doha has raised Mr. Proctor's case with the Qatari authorities to establish the nature of the investigation into him and the existence of a ban on his leaving Qatar while the investigation is ongoing. As of 22 February 2010, no charges had been brought against him, but the Public Prosecution Department's investigation into allegations made by his former employer continues.

Mr. Proctor is not being held in detention by the Qatari authorities but the embassy have received confirmation that an administrative travel ban remains in place which will not be lifted until the investigation is resolved. Additionally we understand that there are two separate legal matters running concurrently. The first is a financial dispute between Mr. Proctor and his former employer, the second a labour dispute lodged by Mr. Proctor against his former employer. We are unable to intervene in private legal issues.

As the matter is being dealt with by our embassy in Qatar there have been no discussions with the Qatari ambassador in London.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the executive agencies for which he is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in (i) his Department and (ii) the executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [317891]

Chris Bryant: The proportion of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff declaring a disability, and the median earnings of full-time and part-time staff, both disabled and non-disabled, are given in Annexes A and B of the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey statistics published by the Office for National Statistics on 20 January 2010. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library of the House. Separate figures are given for the FCO's executive agency, Wilton Park.

Dubai: Interpol

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK's Ambassador in Tel Aviv has had discussions with the British passport holders named in the Interpol request following the murder of Mr Mahmoud al-Mabhouh in Dubai on the circumstances in which their passport details may have been compromised. [318760]

Chris Bryant: The UK is providing support to the British nationals who have been affected by this fraudulent activity. Our officials at the British embassy in Tel Aviv have contacted the affected British nationals, and stand ready to provide them with the support that they need.

GCHQ: Internet

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what expenditure has been incurred on the Mastering the Internet programme at GCHQ to date. [318271]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Hornchurch (James Brokenshire) on 15 May 2009, *Official Report,* column 1088W, namely that Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) continues to invest to maintain its capabilities in the face of growth in internet-based communications. The use of internet technologies and skills are one of the greatest challenges GCHQ has to master in order to deliver intelligence in accordance with its statutory purposes set out in the Intelligence Services Act 1994 (section 3). In the interests of national security detailed figures on Security and Intelligence Agency expenditure are not made public, but are subject to parliamentary scrutiny through the Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC). The ISC's annual report for 2007-08 was published in March 2009.

Iran

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the risk of other countries in the Middle East taking military action against Iran. [318140]

Chris Bryant: There is widespread speculation about the possibility of military action against Iran as a result of its refusal to engage seriously with the international community over its nuclear programme. We have made clear that we are totally committed to finding a diplomatic solution to this issue in order to avoid the serious consequences of diplomacy failing. We will continue to work intensively with our partners to that end.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on further sanctions against Iran. [318142]

Chris Bryant: The Government continue to pursue the dual track strategy of engagement and pressure to address the issue of Iran's nuclear programme. In that context, the Government support further appropriate use of sanctions designed to influence the regime's decision making on the nuclear file.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the threat posed by Iran to other countries in the Middle East. [318155]

Chris Bryant: We remain concerned by Iran's support for groups such as Hamas and Hizballah which threaten regional stability through violence, militia groups in Iraq and the Taleban in Afghanistan. We assess that Iran's ability to create instability in the Middle East would be greatly increased if it had a nuclear weapons capability. This underlines the urgency of finding a diplomatic solution to the issue of Iran's nuclear programme and we are working intensely with international partners to achieve this. Iran needs to engage with the international community and its regional neighbours to restore confidence in its intentions.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* the threat posed to the UK by Iran and *(b)* Iran's capacity to obtain nuclear weapons. [318156]

Chris Bryant: The latest International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report confirms our fears that Iran is acting duplicitously and illegally with its nuclear programme. Iran has ignored IAEA requests for information about the possible military dimension of its programme, has built a secret enrichment plant in Qom, and has enriched uranium up to 20 per cent. despite the IAEA telling it not to do so.

The actions of the Iranian regime threaten the stability of the region as a whole, which has profound implications for the UK and highlights the need for the international community to impose appropriate sanctions in order to bring Iran back to negotiations.

Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to promote the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission's scholarship programme. [318669]

Chris Bryant: We work very closely with the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission to maintain the reputation of the scholarship programme and to ensure that the best candidates are selected.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many intelligence-led stops have been generated by the Automatic Number Plate Recognition CCTV network in each year since 2006; whether approval under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 was obtained in each case; and whether such approvals have been disclosed in subsequent court proceedings. [318333]

Mr. Hanson: The operation of police-owned Automatic Number Plate Recognition systems is the responsibility of individual chief officers and information relating to intelligence-led stops is not collated centrally.

Children: Abuse

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons a caution was issued in respect of *(a)* rape and *(b)* other offences of abuse of a child in the last five years. [317726]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office do not hold information concerning the issuing of a caution for each individual case.

A caution for rape of a child must be sanctioned by the CPS and should only be used by the police in the most exceptional circumstances. It is a function of the police to consider cautions and it is a statutory duty of a Crown Prosecutor to consider whether a prosecution should proceed, taking into account the requirement for a reasonable prospect of conviction and the public interest in the particular prosecution in question.

Crimes Against the Person: Sevenoaks

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences against the person have been recorded in the Sevenoaks district in each year since 1997. [318196]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 24 February 2010]*: The requested information relates to offences of violence against the person recorded in the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) of Sevenoaks. CDRP data are available only since 1999-2000.

The information requested is given in the following tables:

Table 1: Violence against the person, CDRP Sevenoaks, 1999-2000 to 2001-02

	Number
1999-2000	504
2000-01	443
2001-02	374

Note:
The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 2: Violence against the person, CDRP Sevenoaks, 2002-03 to 2008-09

	Number
2002-03	767
2003-04	702
2004-05	782
2005-06	933
2006-07	962
2007-08	723
2008-09	723

Note:
The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Identity Cards

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Identity and Passport Service has made an estimate of the *(a)* gross annual revenue likely to be generated from fees for the replacement of (i) lost and (ii) stolen identity cards and *(b)* annual average number of cards per 1,000 identity card holders likely to be (A) lost and (B) stolen. [318114]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service is not forecasting any material volumes or income in relation to lost or stolen cards.

Identity Cards: Young People

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 41WS, on identity cards, how many people aged between 16 and 24 years old registered their interest in a voluntary identity card by 1 January 2010. [317243]

Meg Hillier: As of 1 January 2010 there were 2,662 registrations from people aged 16 to 24 on the Early Interest website.

National Identity Register

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 91W, on the national identity register, how many years after the death of an individual, that person's personal data will be removed from the register. [318320]

Meg Hillier: The Identity Cards Act 2006 provides that the date of death may be held on the national identity register. There is no set number of years for which this information may be retained as it will be retained for as long as is necessary, for example to prevent an individual's identity from being stolen after death.

Passports: Older People

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make an assessment of the merits of advancing the fee exemption date for passport applications for persons born before 2 September 1929 by one year each year. [319216]

Meg Hillier: There are no plans to extend the free passport scheme as it is not a simple age-related concession. It was introduced in 2004 by the then Home Secretary as a concession for veterans of the Second World War who were attending 60th Anniversary Commemorative Events. It was decided to extend the initial scheme to cover everyone who was 16 or older by the end of the war and so may have contributed to the war effort in a military or civilian capacity.

Police: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* the average budget for all police forces in England and *(b)* the budget of Dorset Police was in each of the last five years. [318201]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* Setting of budgets is a matter for individual police authorities.

The information requested is provided in the table:

		£
	England police average budget	*Dorset police authority budget*
2005-06	239,742,395	99,253,000
2006-07	249,514,186	103,055,700
2007-08	260,563,320	107,800,000
2008-09	270,078,887	111,791,785
2009-10	278,203,514	115,933,100

Source:

Data are taken from the Budget Requirement (BR) forms submitted annually by all billing and precepting authorities in England to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The England police average includes that part of the Greater London Authority that relates solely to the Metropolitan police.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in *(a)* Dorset and *(b)* Bournemouth in each of the last five years. [318202]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* The available data are provided in the table.

This and other related data are published annually as part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Police officer strength in Bournemouth and Dorset, as at 31 March 2005 to 2009, and September 2009

			Full-time equivalent[1]
	Bournemouth	*Bournemouth and Poole*	*Dorset*
2005[2]	317	n/a	1,475
2006[2]	319	n/a	1,512
2007[2]	315	n/a	1,526
2008[2]	317	n/a	1,518
2009[2]	n/a [3]	506	1,512
September 2009	n/a	[3]–	1,489

n/a = Not applicable. not available.

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Figures include officers on career break or maternity/paternity leave.

[2] Police personnel statistics are not collected by parliamentary constituency. Data have been provided for Bournemouth Basic Command Unit for 2005 to 2008. In 2009, the Basic Command Unit breakdown within Dorset changed. The figure for 2009 is for 'Bournemouth and Poole'.

[3] Not available.

Note:

The latest available information at force level is as at 30 September 2009, while the latest available information at Basic Command Unit level is at 31 March 2009.

Prosecutions: EU Action

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his policy is on the establishment of an Office of the European Public Prosecutor; and what discussions he has had with his European counterparts on such an office in the last three months. [317972]

Meg Hillier: The Government have consistently opposed the creation of a European Public Prosecutor (EPP).

Were such a proposal to emerge, it would have to be agreed by unanimity of all participating member states. The UK would also have the choice of whether or not to participate by virtue of our Protocol to the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, which says that we are opted out of any proposals in this area unless we choose to opt-in. So the UK could not be bound to accept any such measure.

The Home Secretary has not held dedicated discussions on this issue with any European counterparts. But within the context of negotiations on the new JHA work programme (the Stockholm Programme) there were wider discussions among EU member states on the future establishment of a European Public Prosecutor (EPP). As part of those discussions, the UK argued against the need for an EPP. The Stockholm Programme makes reference to the EPP as one possibility to further develop EUROJUST (the EU judicial cooperation agency) following an evaluation of its effectiveness during the next five-year period.

Rape: Children

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many cases in which a person suspected of having raped a child was issued with a caution the decision to issue a caution was taken on grounds of the inability of the alleged victim to give evidence in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [317725]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of offenders cautioned in England and Wales for rape of a person aged under 16 years, from 2004 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Data for 2009 are expected to be published in the autumn, 2010.

The Home Office does not hold information concerning the issuing of a caution for each individual case.

A caution for rape of a child must be sanctioned by the CPS and should only be used by the police in the most exceptional circumstances. It is a function of the police to consider cautions and it is a statutory duty of a Crown Prosecutor to consider whether a prosecution should proceed, taking into account the requirement for a reasonable prospect of conviction and the public interest in the particular prosecution in question.

Number of offenders cautioned[1,2] for rape of a person aged under 16 years[3], England and Wales 2004 to 2008[4]

	Number
2004	30
2005	20
2006	13
2007	30
2008	32

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

(Ref: IOS 073-10)

Tetra: Health Hazards

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received from organisations representing police officers on reports of ill health among police officers assigned to duties near Tetra masts. [318165]

Mr. Hanson: Since the rollout of Airwave radio in 2001, the Government have funded research into the safety of Terrestrial Trunked Radio (TETRA) technology. None of the research to date has produced any evidence that Airwave terminals or masts are harmful to the health of police officers or the public.

The Police Federation of England and Wales and the Scottish Police Federation support the view that Airwave TETRA radio is an effective communications tool that enhances officer safety. They maintain a strong interest in the short and long-term health effects of Airwave.

Theft: Motor Vehicles

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many thefts of cars facilitated through the theft of car keys there have been in each London borough in each month of the last five years. [315924]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The requested information is not available at borough level.

Figures on this matter are collected on a quarterly basis at police force area level only in England and Wales. A national level summary of these data is published in the annual Statistical Bulletin "Crime in England and Wales" for 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively; copies of which are available in the Library.

Vetting

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 90W, on the Independent Safeguarding Authority, what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of people likely to be subject to Independent Safeguarding Authority registration in the first 12 months of its operation. [318319]

Meg Hillier: For the period July 2010 to 30 June 2011 we currently forecast that approximately 1,770,000 individuals will apply to become ISA-registered through the Criminal Records Bureau. This represents approximately 3 per cent. of the total population (56.2 million) of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Property Transfer

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities *(a)* have transferred and *(b)* have plans to transfer assets under the (i) Asset Transfer Fund and (ii) Advancing Assets programme to date. [318537]

Barbara Follett: With reference to the Asset Transfer Fund, I assume my hon. Friend is referring to the Community Assets Fund which is now known as the Community Assets Programme. The following table shows the local authorities that have been awarded funding through (i) the Community Assets Programme towards renovating assets for transfer; and (ii) those that have been supported through the Advancing Assets for Communities Demonstration Programme in each of the three years since 2007 to enable them to advance specific asset transfer projects.

The Community Assets Programme is designated as 'CAP' in the table and Advancing Assets for Communities is designated as 'AA' followed by the year in which they were supported by the programme:

Local authority	*Programme*
Allerdale BC	AAY2 and CAP
Ashfield District Council	AAY1 and CAP
Barnsley MBC	AAY2 and CAP
Barrow in Furness Borough Council	CAP
Bedfordshire County Council	CAP
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	CAP
Bradford MBC	AAY2 and CAP
Brighton and Hove City Council	AAY2
Bristol City Council	AAY3 and CAP
Calderdale MBC	AAY2
Charnwood Borough Council	CAP
Cheshire County Council	AAY1
Chester City Council	AAY2
Chester-le-Street District Council	CAP
City of Lincoln Council	AAY3
Coventry City Council	AAY3
Cumbria County Council	AAY1
Dacorum Borough Council	AAY1
Derbyshire County Council	CAP
Devon County Council	AAY1

Local authority	*Programme*
Erewash Borough Council	AAY3
Forest Heath District Council	AAY1
Fylde Borough Council	AAY3
Gateshead MBC	AAY2 and CAP
Halton Borough Council	CAP
Hampshire County Council	CAP
Hartlepool Borough Council	CAP
Hastings Borough Council	AAY1 and CAP
Herefordshire Council	AAY2 and CAP
Hertfordshire County Council	CAP
High Peak Borough Council	AAY2
Hull City Council	AAY2
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council	AAY2
Kirklees MBC	AAY1
Lancashire County Council	AAY3
LB Barking and Dagenham	AAY2 and CAP
LB Bexley	AAY2
LB Havering	CAP
LB Hillingdon	CAP
LB Lambeth	AAY1, AAY3 and CAP
LB Lewisham	AAY1
LB Southwark	AAY2 and CAP
LB Tower Hamlets	AAY1 and CAP
LB Wandsworth	CAP
Leeds City Council	AAY1
Leicester City Council	AAY2
Liverpool City Council	CAP
London Borough of Camden	AAY3
London Borough of Greenwich	AAY3
London Borough of Islington	AAY3
Maidstone Borough Council	AAY2
Newark and Sherwood District Council	AAY2
Newcastle Upon Tyne City Council	AAY2 and CAP
North Hertfordshire District Council	AAY2
North Lincolnshire Council	CAP
North Norfolk District Council	AAY3
North Tyneside District Council	AAY1
Northamptonshire County Council	AAY2
Northumberland County Council	AAY2
Nottingham City Council	AAY1
Oxford City Council	AAY2
Peterborough City Council	AAY1
Plymouth City Council	CAP
Portsmouth City Council	AAY2
Restormel BC	AAY1
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	AAY3
Rugby Borough Council	AAY3
Salford City Council	AAY3
Sandwell MBC	AAY3
Sedgefield Borough Council	CAP
Sedgemoor District Council	AAY2
Sheffield City Council	AAY1
South Gloucestershire District Council	AAY2
Southampton City Council	AAY3
Staffordshire County Council	AAY3
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	AAY3
Stockton Borough Council	CAP
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	AAY2 and CAP
Swale Borough Council	AAY3
Tameside MBC	AAY3
Torbay Council	AAY2
Torridge District Council	AAY3
Tynedale District Council	AAY1
Warrington Borough Council	CAP
Warwick District Council	AAY1
West Lancashire District Council	CAP
West Lindsey District Council	AAY2 and CAP
Wirral Council	AAY2
Wolverhampton City Council	AAY3
Worcester City Council	AAY2
Worthing Borough Council	CAP
York (City of) Council	CAP

Key:
CAP = Community Assets Programme
AAY1 = Advancing Assets 2007-08
AAY2 = Advancing Assets 2008-09
AAY3 = Advancing Assets 2009-10

Empty Property: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty properties were brought back into housing stock by West Lancashire borough council in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [318753]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on the number of empty properties that were brought back into housing stock in 2008 and 2009 by West Lancashire borough council is not held centrally.

Fire Brigades Union

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1643W, on the Fire Brigades Union, if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting referred to in the Answer. [311528]

Mr. Malik: It is not our practice to place internal notes of confidential meetings between Ministers and other parties in the Library of the House.

Fire Services: Emergency Calls

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's publication entitled FiReControl Project: Equalities Impact Assessment, December 2009, what the reasons were for the time taken to undertake the SMS emergency number project; and how much had been spent on that project on the latest date for which figures are available. [317961]

Mr. Malik: The SMS emergency number project is managed and part funded by British Telecommunications plc, with additional funding from the mobile service providers. While the project is welcomed by the Government and emergency services, information about the cost to BT is not available to CLG. It is not part of the FiReControl Project.

Housing: Equality

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect of the provisions of the Equality Bill on the operation of *(a)* the Tenants Services Authority, *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency and *(c)* registered social landlords. [318162]

John Healey: Following Royal Assent, the Government intend to add—by secondary legislation—a number of bodies to the list of public authorities in Schedule 19 to the Equality Bill, including the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), thereby making them subject to the proposed public sector equality duty.

The TSA is currently consulting on a Single Equalities Scheme that takes account of the requirements under the proposed Equality Bill. The consultation paper is available on the TSA's website:

www.tenantservicesauthority.org/upload/doc/Single_equalities_scheme.doc

The HCA introduced a Single Equality Scheme in November 2009 following extensive consultation. This is available on the HCA's website:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/equality

Registered social landlords (RSLs) are not listed as public bodies in the Bill. The Government do not intend to add them through secondary legislation.

It is for individual RSLs, as independent organisations, to ensure that they comply with all applicable legislation.

Housing: Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of the £84 million for cavity wall insulation in the social sector announced in April has been spent in each region. [307004]

Mr. Ian Austin: The funds from the Social Housing Energy Savings Programme are released in arrears after landlords have already made their expenditure. The Homes and Communities Agency monitor financial output on a quarterly basis. The first schemes to start to invest under this programme began in quarter 3 of 2009-10, the HCA do not yet have final output figures. A table of allocations by region split over the two years of the programme follows.

Social housing energy savings programme

£

Region	*Allocations in 2009-10*	*Allocations in 2010-11*
East	717,288	
East Midlands	977,185	1,231,965
East of England	680,634	615,811
London	30,535,391	24,304,397
North East	651,625	200,655
North West	3,049,696	2,505,473
South East	1,534,224	82,762
South west	467,906	85,381
West Midlands	1,123,200	
Yorkshire and Humber	3,622,742	1,205,658
Grand Total	43,359,891	30,232,102

Local Government: Bank Services

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assumptions affecting the next three years regarding write-off provisions for local authority losses in Icelandic banks his Department has made; [318281]

(2) what provision his Department has made for losses incurred by local authorities through investment in Icelandic banks. [318295]

Barbara Follett: Investment decisions are a matter for local authorities. It is for those local authorities which had investments in Icelandic banks to make provision in their financial plans for estimated losses.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the extent of losses incurred by local authorities through investment in Icelandic banks. [318296]

Barbara Follett: CLG has not made any such estimates. The Resolution Committee for Landsbanki and Glitnir and the UK administrators of Heritable and Kaupthing Singer and Friedland Ltd. have published information on likely rates of return. Local authorities are in direct contact with these administrators.

New Deal for Communities

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been granted under the new deal for communities in each *(a)* local authority and *(b)* lower layer super output area in each year since 2000. [318266]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The grant for each NDC by local authority area is shown in the following tables. It is not possible to provide spend or budget information at lower super output area (LSOA) because NDC areas are composed of several LSOAs, and are also often not consistent with LSOA boundaries. Allocations are, therefore, not able to be disaggregated to LSOA level.

Total all NDCs

£

			Spend		
NDC	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Birmingham		3,054,814	3,783,947	7,628,331	10,661,208
Bradford	879,016	5,004,267	8,006,186	8,612,566	10,148,297
Brent		707,557	2,306,759	4,346,533	7,106,527
Brighton	1,289,700	3,714,670	6,806,066	7,610,470	8,938,765
Bristol	746,401	2,791,653	5,293,432	7,608,947	8,357,702
Coventry		391,578	1,218,125	5,060,723	7,028,341
Derby		473,258	3,319,692	7,056,769	6,938,025
Doncaster		538,531	2,466,909	4,020,587	5,457,889
Hackney	2,924,765	8,115,614	5,822,505	6,080,593	4,471,977
Hammersmith and Fulham		706,771	2,781,699	4,481,690	6,545,980
Haringey		1,875,618	4,714,787	8,887,609	6,855,000
Hartlepool		1,764,529	4,611,844	6,608,143	10,787,715
Hull	1,145,584	5,507,438	8,044,630	10,873,968	15,251,841
Islington		456,011	1,591,354	3,619,843	5,104,604
Knowsley		409,922	3,478,639	4,852,870	6,443,415
Lambeth		871,773	2,507,615	3,987,351	8,405,470

Total all NDCs

£

			Spend		
NDC	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Leicester	794,000	2,369,365	4,206,653	8,759,411	11,043,377
Lewisham	—	610,447	2,815,432	4,142,648	4,929,045
Liverpool	1,060,822	1,410,797	5,514,119	5,551,036	8,319,940
Luton	—	—	5,043,510	3,705,412	4,901,903
Manchester	4,517,002	6,595,067	8,312,353	17,169,000	3,873,624
Middlesbrough	1,724,009	3,673,519	6,042,402	7,586,561	8,828,214
Newcastle	659,947	2,761,860	4,891,826	8,063,602	8,383,350
Newham	1,417,360	5,864,945	7,290,692	8,946,517	11,849,125
Norwich	615,770	2,051,182	8,218,167	7,050,687	7,111,245
Nottingham	432,537	3,659,998	4,924,528	7,186,119	8,302,249
Oldham	—	296,478	1,703,824	10,493,592	6,155,293
Plymouth	—	437,773	2,125,561	2,898,915	3,265,149
Rochdale	218,650	860,799	5,374,676	6,006,212	5,222,646
Salford	—	515,253	3,763,625	4,830,176	7,243,745
Sandwell	1,663,591	3,757,164	4,791,949	7,304,721	5,536,404
Sheffield	—	730,755	2,924,157	5,655,717	8,666,269
Southampton	—	1,661,474	1,849,953	3,831,104	4,096,800
Southwark	393,910	1,395,064	3,791,595	3,925,648	4,814,369
Sunderland	123,847	926,951	3,849,191	3,849,191	5,594,562
Tower Hamlets	1,437,751	2,403,057	5,293,028	6,364,966	5,583,320
Walsall	—	610,561	3,785,574	3,023,839	10,246,772
Wolverhampton	—	215,660	1,628,049	3,310,275	4,455,965

£

	Spend			Budget	
NDC	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Birmingham	11,056,266	10,942,262	11,306,167	16,467,000	21,862,451
Bradford	9,610,665	6,272,498	3,676,000	1,013,000	40,000
Brent	8,086,377	5,921,783	7,660,000	6,400,000	3,748,000
Brighton	7,774,012	6,296,099	3,664,973	1,147,000	73,000
Bristol	7,598,855	7,730,343	6,098,000	3,043,000	1,360,587
Coventry	7,256,158	7,350,415	10,300,000	8,500,000	4,022,000
Derby	7,248,951	5,679,750	5,701,092	2,050,000	1,006,000
Doncaster	4,673,373	5,702,411	7,108,517	9,146,000	8,876,000
Hackney	7,973,141	5,901,841	8,743,814	7,079,934	3,861,856
Hammersmith and Fulham	7,669,363	6,371,395	6,199,459	4,490,000	3,725,335
Haringey	8,955,388	6,552,986	6,427,324	3,710,000	1,557,000
Hartlepool	10,829,298	5,840,220	5,780,674	4,033,000	2,700,000
Hull	6,741,508	5,470,953	3,940,000	1,105,566	1,493,220
Islington	6,656,029	6,784,000	7,352,213	6,942,000	6,777,000
Knowsley	6,554,737	9,240,623	8,183,858	11,566,000	3,934,000
Lambeth	8,770,799	12,625,802	10,123,271	7,870,000	1,766,501
Leicester	7,247,249	6,056,865	5,699,788	3,529,000	2,079,112
Lewisham	7,540,555	7,301,494	8,429,260	4,117,507	3,280,939
Liverpool	8,513,718	9,083,605	7,158,053	10,050,000	6,086,000
Luton	5,433,480	4,820,325	7,357,004	4,560,000	7,024,221
Manchester	1,675,349	2,744,610	2,395,070	2,304,000	2,195,000
Middlesbrough	10,034,770	6,412,200	4,256,000	2,404,000	1,050,000
Newcastle	6,946,500	6,019,507	6,249,220	4,500,000	6,388,522
Newham	9,655,410	2,546,927	4,130,000	3,141,000	1,650,452
Norwich	5,711,146	2,419,000	950,000	2,170,000	254,000
Nottingham	7,617,140	7,741,450	6,229,905	8,917,000	3,295,095
Oldham	6,906,589	8,016,812	7,231,929	7,116,000	3,209,000
Plymouth	5,166,622	5,483,228	8,892,246	9,040,000	7,621,000
Rochdale	5,989,241	6,982,065	4,801,411	6,282,000	7,452,000
Salford	6,998,762	7,118,943	6,532,371	6,990,000	5,507,000
Sandwell	9,042,114	6,690,337	4,879,095	6,776,000	5,317,000
Sheffield	8,644,867	11,533,519	10,226,661	4,964,800	471,700
Southampton	6,949,470	7,431,365	8,697,646	7,362,000	3,051,296
Southwark	2,300,665	3,129,187	8,045,000	13,716,561	14,551,467
Sunderland	4,001,222	7,302,000	8,495,000	9,201,000	6,146,000
Tower Hamlets	5,475,927	4,900,660	5,156,000	2,325,000	12,316,740
Walsall	8,981,130	6,570,144	5,601,594	6,425,000	5,200,000
Wolverhampton	5,480,051	7,050,936	8,212,467	9,200,000	7,600,000

Note: Funds granted to two NDCs in Birmingham—Kings Norton and Aston.

Planning Permission

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with (*a*) the Local Government Association and (*b*) representatives of local authorities on the short-term erection of refrigeration tents in the pre-Christmas period and the enforcement of planning requirements; what recent representations he has received on this matter; and if he will take steps to prevent the erection of such tents without planning consent. [318764]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have not had any discussions with the Local Government Association or with representatives of local authorities, nor have I received representations regarding planning requirements for temporary refrigeration tents. In the first instance it is for local planning authorities to determine whether such temporary structures constitute development and whether, therefore, would require planning permission.

Social Rented Housing

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts the (*a*) Homes and Communities and (*b*) Tenant Services Agency has let to (i) social enterprises and (ii) registered social landlords since each agency was established. [318528]

John Healey: The HCA has three-year framework delivery contracts in place with 187 RSL investment partners for the 2008-11 spending review period, transferred from the HCA's predecessor body the Housing Corporation. The HCA also have three contracts with RSLs and one with a social enterprise through the Places of Change programme.

The Tenants Services Authority has let two contracts to small and medium enterprises.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many registered social landlords operate local labour (*a*) schemes and (*b*) clauses in contracts let. [318529]

John Healey: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

In order to obtain Social Housing Grant from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), registered social landlords (RSLs) are required to sign up to the principles of the 2012 Construction Commitments. Full details of these commitments are available at:

http://www.housingcorp.gov.uk/upload/pdf/
2012_construction_commitments_agreement.pdf

The HCA's Single Conversation process reflects the importance of supporting local economic development and employment through investment. The Single Conversation guidance emphasises the need for Local Investment Plans to address poverty and socio-economic inequalities through strategies for employment protection and creation and by providing training and apprenticeships. HCA reports that 1,107 apprenticeships have been created through RSL partnerships.

The Single Conversation guidance is available on the HCA's website:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/public/documents/SC_LIP_Further_information.pdf

Sustainable Communities Act 2007

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress his Department has made in its consideration of the proposal made by Westminster city council under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 on temporary accommodation targets; and if he will make a statement. [318451]

Barbara Follett: The Government are consulting the Local Government Association (LGA) in its role as selector under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 and are seeking to reach agreement on which of the 199 short-listed proposals, including that submitted by Westminster city council, should be implemented. Many of the proposals are complex and raise significant practical issues but the Government are anxious to make progress as quickly as possible on those proposals that offer practical benefits and new ways of meeting local needs.

A series of official-level meetings took place in January between the LGA and Government Departments to consider the proposals, and further work is now under way to follow up the issues raised in those discussions.

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* funding and *(b)* guidance his Department has provided to local authorities that have made proposals that have been shortlisted for consideration under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007; and if he will make a statement. [318452]

Barbara Follett: No funding has been provided to local authorities that have made proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007.

On 9 July 2008 statutory guidance on submitting proposals was published as part of the Statutory Guidance on the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 "Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities".

On 14 October 2008 the Secretary of State issued an invitation to local authorities to submit proposals. At the same time, the Department wrote to all local authorities giving an indication of the likely approach of Government to decisions on short-listed proposals.

These documents are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/about/sustainablecommunitiesact

Sustainable Development

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria have been established for the creation of carbon-efficient towns and cities. [318509]

John Healey: Towns and cities can play a big role in tackling climate change. Many local authorities in towns and cities have set themselves targets to reduce emissions in response to National Indicator 186. We have set out our expectation of how planning authorities in towns and cities can plan new development to ensure carbon emissions are reduced in our Climate Change Planning Policy Statement (PPS) and we will shortly be consulting on a revision to the PPS. As part of the Eco-towns Programme we have set out sustainability standards for eco-towns in our eco-towns PPS. These include the requirement that the developments as a whole must be zero-carbon. We are working with nine groups of local authorities and individual local authorities to pilot the concept of local carbon frameworks, a new approach for local authorities to set themselves ambitious targets and plans for reducing carbon emissions.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the oral answer by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 69WH, on Travellers, what his Department's definition of *(a)* fairness and *(b)* equality is in relation to planning applications for sites for Gypsy and Traveller caravans. [317605]

Mr. Malik: Fairness and equality, in relation for the planning applications for Gypsy and Traveller sites, means that the law is applied equally to Gypsies and Travellers and to those of the settled community; any proposal for development must be considered purely on its planning merits taking account of all relevant planning matters.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Planning Inspectorate has issued on the length of time a (i) Traveller and (ii) demonstration encampment may be in place before it is deemed permanent for planning purposes; and how long temporary encampments may be in place before becoming rateable for (A) council tax and (B) business rate purposes. [317805]

Mr. Malik: The Planning Inspectorate has issued guidance on the length of time a (i) Traveller or (ii) a demonstration encampment may be in place before it is deemed permanent or authorised. The guidance issued by the Planning Inspectorate is in the form of the Inspectors Handbook, which covers professional planning matters dealt with by Inspectors. Annex E of ODPM Planning Circular 01/2006 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller sites' states that planning permission may not be required for any development if the use of the land has been established over a period of time without valid planning enforcement action have been taken by the local authority.

No guidance has been issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government or the Planning Inspectorate on the length of time a temporary encampment may be in place before becoming rateable for council tax or business rates. No minimum period is defined by statute. It is established rating law that a transitory occupation of land does not amount to rateable occupation. Whether the necessary permanence of occupation has been established for liability to arise will depend on the facts in each case.

A Traveller[1] or demonstration[2] encampment can become permanent, and authorised, for planning purposes through the express grant of planning permission for such a use, unencumbered by a condition limiting its use to a specified period, or by the imposition or removal of an appropriate condition attached to an existing planning permission by the formal process set out in s.73 and 73 A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The only other means by which a use of land can become lawful is where it continues, uninterrupted and in essentially the same form, for a period of 10 years and the evidence exists to prove that this has occurred, on the balance of probabilities, such that a Certificate of Lawful Development under s.191 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 can be granted. In a similar way a use can become immune from enforcement action under S.171B of the 1990 Act after a period of 10 years, if a local planning authority has not taken enforcement action before that time.

[1] Assumed to mean the occupation of a site by Travellers for residential purposes.

[2] Assumed to mean an unauthorised use of land for demonstration purposes.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether unmet need for traveller sites is a material consideration in the planning process when considering a retrospective application of the development of an unauthorised Traveller site. [317879]

Mr. Malik: ODPM Circular 2001-06 Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites confirms that unmet need for Gypsy and Traveller sites is one of several material considerations which decision makers should take into account when determining planning applications. The material considerations relevant to a retrospective application for the development are no different for those submitted prospectively.

WORK AND PENSIONS

A4e: Employment

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of people who have attended A4e meetings have found work within six months of the inception of the A4e contract in *(a)* England, *(b)* the East of England, *(c)* Bedfordshire and *(d)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency. [317539]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested.

Asbestos: Schools

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the follow-up work to the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) Asbestos Management in Schools survey; how many visits by the HSE to local education authorities have been made following the survey; and when she estimates the HSE follow-up work will be completed. [318515]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 24 February 2010]*: HSE inspectors are in the process of visiting the local authorities which were identified through the questionnaire survey, that is, those local authorities which did not provide sufficient information to demonstrate the adequacy of their arrangements for properly managing asbestos in system-built schools. In total 45 LAs have been identified for visit and to date 14 of these have been visited with three further visits scheduled. The remaining visits are scheduled for completion during March and April.

Besides any specific actions required at the time of visits by inspectors in individual cases, an overall assessment of the collective findings will rapidly be made by HSE, and the findings shared with others to ensure that necessary remedial actions are taken.

It is essential that all schools have arrangements in place to actively and competently manage asbestos whenever it is present. HSE will continue to work with the local authorities, DCSF and schools to ensure that schools both understand their legal responsibilities and act on them.

Children: Maintenance

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the cases under consideration by the Child Support Agency involve absent parents in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Glasgow East constituency. [317055]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Cold Weather Payments: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Tamworth constituency have received cold weather payments in 2009-10. [311775]

Helen Goodman: The number of pensioner benefit units in Tamworth constituency who have received cold weather payments in 2009-10 is estimated to be around 4,000.

As well as pensioners, a range of other groups are also eligible for cold weather payments. People eligible are those awarded:

pension credit, or

income-related employment and support allowance that includes a work-related activity or support component.

Those awarded:

income support, or

income-based jobseeker's allowance, or

income-related employment and support allowance in the assessment phase.

and who have:

a pensioner premium, or

a disability premium, or

a child who is disabled, or

a child under the age of five.

are also eligible to receive payments.

Notes:

1. A benefit unit consists of a single person or a couple. The number of individual pensioners who have been helped by cold weather payments is greater than 4,000, because both members of a couple benefit unit have gained from the payment.

2. The figure has been rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Sources: Analysis of 5 per cent. sample data for pension credit, income support (for recipients with a pensioner premium), jobseeker's allowance (for recipients with a pensioner premium) and the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (100 per cent. data), all for May 2009, and DWP records of cold weather payment triggers.

Council Tax Benefits: Kingston

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in (a) the Royal Borough of Kingston and (b) Kingston and Surbiton constituency have been in receipt of council tax benefit in each of the last three years. [318041]

Helen Goodman: The available information is in the tables. Statistics on council tax benefit recipients are derived from the single housing benefit extract (SHBE), which is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems, and which replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. Geographic breakdowns are available at regional and local authority level, but have not yet been developed for smaller geographical areas such as parliamentary constituencies.

Number of families where at least one person is aged 60 or over receiving council tax benefit in The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames: August 2007

	Number
August 2007	3,170

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.

2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

3. Council Tax benefit totals exclude any second adult rebate cases.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in August 2007.

Number of families where at least one person is aged 60 or over receiving council tax benefit in The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames: November 2008-09

	Number
November 2008	3,300
November 2009	3,390

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.

2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

3. Council Tax Benefit figures exclude any Single Adult Rebate cases.

4. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and November 2009 is the most recent available.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs formerly undertaken by staff of her Department have been outsourced to external companies in each of the last five years; and to which companies. [314632]

Jonathan Shaw: My Department has entered into the following contracts with external suppliers in the last five years which have resulted in staff contracts being transferred to suppliers:

63 staff under the Record Storage contract awarded to Capita in March 2004;

610 staff under the Review of Office Services contract awarded to Haden in September 2006;

15 staff under the Print and Associated Services contract awarded to iON in February 2007.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether (a) agencies and (b) non-departmental public bodies for which her Department is responsible sell information on a commercial basis to (i) companies or individuals in the private sector and (ii) other organisations. [313231]

Jim Knight: Government Departments and agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) that have Crown status make most of their non-personal information available for free re-use under the PSI Click-Use Licence to other public bodies, commercial organisations and individuals.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) does not charge for the provision of such information. DWP currently publish a range of such information in official publications, such as research reports and statistical publications, via the internet, which are available free of charge. Prior to internet dissemination of such publications, these were only available as paper copies for which a nominal charge was made to cover costs. Paper copies of statistical publications are no longer available to purchase as they are available to download free of charge; some paper copies of research reports are still held in the Department and are made available to the public free of charge if requested.

In general, most of DWP's NDPBs do not sell such information on a commercial basis. However, there are two instances where a charge may be levied by the non-departmental public bodies for the provision of information:

In support of the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE's) Strategy launched in June 2009, and to demonstrate HSE's commitment to provide real help to small business, from 1 September 2009, HSE made the range of its publications freely available on HSE's website to download, view and print. There is an option to purchase a professionally printed version should the company or individual require. These publications provide guidance to those responsible on either practical application or best practice in complying with the legal requirements under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.

The Pensions Advisory Service (TPAS) have the facility to charge employers to cover the printing costs of TPAS leaflets where a large number have been requested. This has not been used in, at least, the last five years.

DWP is also custodian of a large amount of personal information. DWP takes its duty of confidentiality to all its customers extremely seriously and complies with the provisions of the Data Protection At 1998. The Department does not provide its customers' personal information to any third party for commercial gain.

Departmental ICT

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times the Labour Market System has been unavailable in the last 24 months; and for how long that system was unavailable on each occasion. [317626]

Jim Knight: The Labour Market System was unavailable on five occasions in the last 24 months. These are as follows:

10 September 2008: 1 hour

7 January 2009: 44 minutes

30 April 2009: 2 hours 10 minutes

16 December 2009: 1 hour 13 minutes

8 January 2010: 2 hours 56 minutes.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the staff turnover rate in her Department was in 2009; [317163]

(2) what the staff turnover rate in Jobcentre Plus was in 2009. [317164]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department and its agencies calculate turnover on a rolling 12-month basis and the following rates are based on average staffing and the number of turnover leavers.

The turnover rates as at 30 September 2009 are shown in the table.

	Percentage
Department for Work and Pensions and agencies	4.11
Jobcentre Plus	4.08

The percentage turnover rate is calculated by dividing the number of permanent staff (includes staff on fixed term appointments exceeding 12 months) who leave in the relevant 12-month period, by the average number of permanent staff employed in the same period.

Turnover is calculated in line with a "wastage index" method which is a recognised methodology.

The following broad categories of leavers are included in the calculation:

Retirements

Death in service

Dismissals and discharge

Resignation

Transfers to other Government Departments and non civil service public sector.

The calculation excludes:

staff transferring as a result of movement of work, e.g. machinery of government changes;

staff leaving as a result of voluntary early release schemes, and;

temporary staff leaving.

In order to provide a view on the trend the turnover rates at 30 September 2008 were:

	Percentage
DWP	5.79
Jobcentre Plus	5.28

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in her Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years. [316452]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of staff currently recorded on the Department's personnel computer system as having had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years is 2,699. DWP currently employs more than 120,000 full and part-time staff.

The average number of working days lost per year in the Department through sickness has fallen from 10.3 in December 2007 to 8.4 in January 2010, the latest date for which figures are available.

Future Jobs Fund

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people have obtained jobs through the Future Jobs Fund with the social enterprise Real Baby Milk since the inception of the Fund; [315669]

(2) how many placements for young people have been made in the *(a)* public, *(b)* private and *(c)* voluntary sector through the Future Jobs Fund since its inception; [316367]

(3) how many apprenticeship places have been delivered through the Future Jobs Fund in each region since its inception. [316368]

Jim Knight: Information on Future Jobs Fund starts and apprenticeship places delivered through the Future Jobs Fund is not currently available but will be made available from spring 2010 through an official statistical release that is planned to cover the whole of the Young Person's Guarantee.

This is normal practice for the Department's employment programmes and it allows time for the information to be collected, understood, verified and reported.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2010 to the hon. Member for Maidenhead, *Official Report*, column 258W, on the Future Jobs Fund, how many of the jobs announced to date, excluding those created under national bids will be created in each local authority area. [317645]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Housing Benefit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many housing benefit recipients there were in each region in each of the last 12 quarters. [316799]

Helen Goodman: Housing benefit has played a key role in helping people deal with the impact of the recession and will play an equally important part in helping people return to work as the economy improves.

The available information is in the following tables.

Housing benefit recipients, by region: February 2006 to November 2006

Government Office Region	*February 2006*	*May 2006*	*August 2006*	*November 2006*
North East	226,800	227,500	228,300	227,000
North West	520,200	512,900	516,100	518,400
Yorks and the Humber	349,000	343,500	345,800	350,500
East Midlands	239,900	243,300	244,900	246,000
West Midlands	360,000	363,200	366,800	364,300
East	292,400	293,500	297,100	297,800
London	691,200	685,600	689,700	694,300
South East	404,100	407,000	412,700	413,800
South West	280,300	281,500	288,800	284,800
Wales	200,400	200,900	201,900	200,600
Scotland	434,100	318,500	432,200	431,200

Housing benefit recipients, by region: February 2007 to August 2007

Government Office Region	*February 2007*	*May 2007*	*August 2007*
North East	228,600	226,800	227,400
North West	520,300	518,400	518,600
Yorks and the Humber	350,900	351,000	349,500
East Midlands	246,700	242,700	244,900
West Midlands	369,400	368,100	369,600
East	300,800	300,100	302,100
London	692,600	693,500	698,300
South East	414,400	414,600	416,400
South West	285,600	286,400	286,200
Wales	201,300	200,400	200,700
Scotland	429,300	429,800	427,300

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
5. Data are published at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/hb_ctb_aug07.xls

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. taken in February 2006 - August 2007

Housing benefit recipients, by region: November 2008 to October 2009

Government Office Region	*November 2008*	*January 2009*	*April 2009*	*July 2009*	*October 2009*
North East	232,450	236,740	240,820	244,260	248,400
North West	532,480	537,470	551,560	566,100	576,190
Yorks and the Humber	361,170	371,400	378,740	386,040	394,440
East Midlands	260,730	265,490	278,640	284,780	292,130
West Midlands	385,700	393,910	407,860	417,630	425,400
East	318,210	323,760	336,860	345,100	352,760
London	712,010	719,900	735,350	753,870	769,430
South East	439,430	450,690	467,800	478,000	489,710
South West	299,860	310,600	323,480	330,320	337,360
Wales	210,820	213,930	220,710	225,030	228,380
Scotland	419,100	428,370	440,250	446,120	454,530

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
4. The Department modernised the way it collected HB and CTB from local authorities to make the process more efficient. The new data source, the Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns.
5. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and October 2009 is the most recent available.
6. Data from SHBE incorporate the local authority changes from 1 April 2009.
7. Data are published at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/HBCTB_release_JAN10.xls

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many (*a*) people and (*b*) households received local housing allowance in each of the last eight quarters. [316800]

Helen Goodman: The local housing allowance arrangements were rolled out from 7 April 2008 and apply to customers in the deregulated private rented sector who make a new claim for housing benefit or to existing customers who change address. Of the 1.34 million housing benefit customers who live in private rented sector accommodation 0.90 million (70 per cent.) have had their benefit assessed according to the local housing allowance rules.

Information is not available in relation to households.

The most recent available information is in the table.

Housing benefit recipients—local housing allowance tenants: Great Britain, November 2008 to October 2009

Month	*LHA tenants*
2008	
November	408,380
December	459,190
2009	
January	499,450
February	554,180
March	604,510

Housing benefit recipients—local housing allowance tenants: Great Britain, November 2008 to October 2009

Month	*LHA tenants*
April	651,800
May	688,170
June	727,780
July	758,280
August	782,950
September	815,970
October	850,310

Notes:
1. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
2. Local housing allowance tenants may include a small number of non-LHA cases making a new claim since 7 April 2008. This will include recipients in caravan accommodation.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
5. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and October 2009 are the most recent available.
6. Data are published on table 4 at
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/
HBCTB_release_JAN10.xls
7. Details on the number of LHA tenants are not available prior to the introduction of SHBE.
Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

Housing Benefit: Scotland

Mr. Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether her Department takes steps to check whether the landlords of housing benefit recipients in Scotland are properly registered with local authorities. [318071]

Helen Goodman: No. It is for local authorities in Scotland to ensure landlords are properly registered under guidance from the Scottish Executive.

All private landlords in Scotland must be registered (or have applied for registration) with the local authorities where they let private property. Once an application has been submitted it is assessed by the relevant local authority who determines whether the landlord is fit and proper. There are a number of sanctions available to local authorities if a landlord fails to register, or continues to let property after being refused registration. The sanctions include reporting the case to the Procurator Fiscal for prosecution. However, the most popular and successful sanction so far has been the rent penalty notice (RPN). If a local authority serves such a notice, it suspends the tenant's liability to pay rent for the period of the notice. If an RPN is used, the tenant is notified to stop paying rent and, if housing benefit is in payment, the local housing benefit office is informed that an RPN is in place and that housing benefit should not be paid for the period of the notice.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department and its predecessors have paid in vehicle clamping charges incurred on *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* publicly-owned land in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [302738]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available.

Jobcentre Plus

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what outreach work is undertaken by Jobcentre Plus; and what plans she has for the future of such work. [313078]

Jonathan Shaw: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what outreach work is undertaken by Jobcentre Plus, and what plans she has for the future of such work. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus has locations across the country providing outreach services which meet the needs of customers and communities, reaching the most disadvantaged and vulnerable in society. These outreach services complement our core services delivered through other channels.

There are various outreach schemes that Jobcentre Plus operates. Among them are: District Community Outreach, which provides ease of access to advice and support within the local community; Prison Outreach which provides specific support to prisoners as part of their preparation for release by offering both benefit and job broking advice; and School Gates which is a support initiative to increase the amount of employment and enterprise support provided to parents in and around their child's school.

In addition there is a small team of advisers working directly in community locations in three Jobcentre Plus Districts—Merseyside, South London, and South Tyne and Wear Valley. Their objective is to work with partners locally, in particular with social housing providers, to engage with residents, challenge attitudes to worklessness and offer a holistic service to address the barriers that prevent individuals or households from finding work.

Recognising this early success we announced in the White Paper an extension to this approach. Therefore, we will be funding 11 new teams in addition to the original three, from April 2010.

For the future, I see outreach being a continued way of delivering our services. We will continue to work with partners at a local level to establish new and innovative ways of sharing premises, facilitate the provision of more cohesive local services, promote our services to a wider customer base and potentially reduce overall Government estate costs.

I hope this information is helpful.

Jobcentre Plus: Disclosure of Information

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints have been made to Jobcentre Plus managers by whistleblowers in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [316616]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Dara Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many complaints have been made to Jobcentre Plus managers by whistleblowers in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Department only holds information on the number of employees within Jobcentre Plus that have contacted the Department's Whistleblowers' Hotline. This information is detailed below for each of the last five years.

The number of employees within Jobcentre Plus contacting the Department's Whistleblowers' Hotline

Period of Referral	*Number of referrals*
1 April 2004-31 March 2005	61
1 April 2005-31 March 2006	83
1 April 2006-31 March 2007	75
1 April 2007-31 March 2008	75
1 April 2008-31 March 2009	70
1 April 2009-5 February 2010	64

Source: Jobcentre Plus Management Information

Jobcentre Plus: Termination of Employment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of Jobcentre Plus staff have had their contracts terminated for each reason of termination in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [316601]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus. Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many and what proportion of Jobcentre Plus staff have had their contracts terminated for each reason of termination in each of the last five years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The tables in the attached annex contain the numbers and proportions of staff who have had their contracts terminated, as well as termination reason. The information covering proportions sets out staff as a percentage of the average number of people in the organisation in each of the years in question.

Information has been provided from April 2006 which are the earliest available data.

I hope this is helpful.

Annex

Reason	*Number of leavers*	*Percentage of headcount*
April 2006-March 2007		
Early Retirement	343	0.5
Voluntary Early Release	1,678	2.2
Deceased	101	0.1
Dismissed	687	0.9
End of temporary, Fixed Term, or provisional appointment	2,410	3.2
Ill Health retirement	121	0.2
Other	1	0.0
Resignation	3,557	4.7
Retirement	848	1.1
Transfer	861	1.1
Total	10,607	14.0
April 2007-March 2008		
Early Retirement	174	0.2
Voluntary Early Release	1,348	1.8
Deceased	111	0.1
Dismissed	253	0.3
End of temporary, Fixed Term, or provisional appointment	1,063	1.4
Ill Health retirement	28	0.0
Other	684	0.9
Resignation	3,076	4.1
Retirement	699	0.9
Transfer	411	0.6
Total	7,847	10.6
April 2008-March 2009		
Early Retirement	148	0.2
Voluntary Early Release	257	0.3
Deceased	77	0.1
Dismissed	752	1.0
End of temporary, Fixed Term, or provisional appointment	824	1.1
Ill Health retirement	91	0.1
Other	81	0.1
Resignation	2,288	3.0
Retirement	699	0.9
Transfer	185	0.2
Total	5,402	7.0
April 2009-September 2009		
Early Retirement	157	0.1
Voluntary Early Release	91	0.1
Deceased	85	0.1
Dismissed	806	0.9
End of temporary, Fixed Term, or provisional appointment	730	0.8
Ill Health retirement	118	0.1
Other	80	0.1
Resignation	2,187	2.4
Retirement	673	0.7
Transfer	210	0.2
Total	5,137	5.5

Source: Dataview IT System

Jobcentre Plus: Training

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what equality training is *(a)* compulsory and *(b)* made voluntarily available for Jobcentre Plus employees; and if she will make a statement. [316595]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus. Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what equality training is (a) compulsory and (b) made voluntarily available for Jobcentre Plus employees. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

All new starters to Jobcentre Plus are required to work through the compulsory Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Induction Programme. The programme sets out the actions that should be taken to successfully induct and settle new staff into DWP, including sections on Diversity and Equality. To facilitate this programme, support is provided to line managers and staff via a checklist, which has been produced to provide clear guidance on the process, what needs to be done and by when.

Jobcentre Plus has in place a comprehensive foundation learning programme in which Diversity and Equality feature within two key products. The first is the 12 hour Diversity and Equality

Awareness for Excellent Customer Service workbook. The workbook is designed to highlight Jobcentre Plus' commitment to supporting Diversity and Equality in all that we do within our business. It provides an introduction to the diversity of Jobcentre Plus customers, and as the learner works through they are sign posted to the DWP Diversity and Equality site where they are expected to gather information in order to successfully answer questions and exercises covered within the workbook.

On completing the workbook learners undertake the Core Key Skills for Excellent Customer Service training event. The event provides learners with the understanding, skills and knowledge required to provide excellent and accessible customer services to all Jobcentre Plus customers. The event reinforces and builds on the knowledge gained from undertaking the workbook and provides coverage on: Equal Opportunity, Values & Beliefs, Customer Groups, Cultural Awareness and Diversity and Equality.

Dependant on their job role and the staff's interaction with the customer within Jobcentre Plus, an additional training event is delivered.

Further training events available to Jobcentre Plus staff include:

Age;

Disability;

Equal Opportunities;

Gender;

Race;

Religion or Belief;

Sexual orientation; and

Work Life Balance.

I hope this information is helpful.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what cultural awareness training is *(a)* compulsory and *(b)* made voluntarily available for Jobcentre Plus employees; and if she will make a statement. [316596]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what cultural awareness training is (a) compulsory and (b) made voluntarily available for Jobcentre Plus employees. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Cultural awareness is included as part of our compulsory Diversity and Equality learning for all our people. For example a three day facilitated event covering Excellent Customer Service includes coverage on Cultural Awareness.

In addition to mandatory learning on Diversity and Equality we offer the following cultural awareness training for our people:

Race Relations Overview Workshop;

Race and Understanding Workshop;

Understanding Stereotyping Workshop;

About Me Workshop;

Culture Confidence Workshop; and

A Class Divided Workshop

Line Managers will recommend this training for people who would benefit from this additional learning to support them in their job role.

I hope this is helpful.

Maximus Employment and Training

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what remit her Department has assigned to Maximus Employment and Training UK in Eastleigh; and what payments have been made from the Exchequer to this organisation. [316526]

Jim Knight: Maximus Employment and Training UK delivers Progress 2 Work provision in Eastleigh on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions. In addition to Progress 2 Work, Maximus also delivers the following provision:

Flexible new deal (Kent, Surrey and Sussex)

Workprep (South West)

Workstep (Dorset and Somerset)

Link Up (West of England), and

In work support (Dorset and Somerset)

The following table shows the payments made to Maximus covering all the programmes they deliver across the UK.

	£
Year 1 2005-06	9,468,024
Year 2 2006-07	10,418,332
Year 3 2007-08	9,783,920
Year 4 2008-09	4,118,532
Year 5 2009-10	6,776,192
Total	40,565,000

Through flexible new deal Maximus provides tailored and personalised support for customers who have been unemployed for 12 months with the aim of helping them into work. Through the other welfare to work programmes Maximus supports disabled people and customer groups that are furthest from the job market, such as those with social or drug issues.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average monthly payment to recipients under the Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme was in each of the last *(a)* three years and *(b)* six months. [316801]

Helen Goodman: Financial support is provided through benefit assistance towards payments of mortgage interest to homeowners who run into unforeseen difficulties. Help is provided towards the interest on mortgages—known as Support for Mortgage Interest (SMI) as part of income support (IS), income-based jobseeker's allowance (JSA(IB)), and income-related employment and support allowance (ESA(IR)) and state pension credit (PC)

The information is not available in the format requested; the available information is in the table.

Average weekly amount of support with mortgage interest payments made to income support (IS); jobseekers allowance (income-based) (JSA(IB)); or pension credit (PC) claimants in Great Britain

			£
	IS	*JSA(IB)*	*PC*
May 2007	46.88	47.47	27.98
August 2007	50.89	51.50	30.56
February 2008	51.11	52.71	30.33

Average weekly amount of support with mortgage interest payments made to income support (IS); jobseekers allowance (income-based) (JSA(IB)); or pension credit (PC) claimants in Great Britain.

£

	IS	*JSA(IB)*	*PC*
May 2008	48.75	50.08	29.93
August 2008	49.30	51.11	29.08
November 2008	46.60	53.67	27.67
February 2009	63.39	61.31	37.31
May 2009	51.06	75.49	29.39

Notes:
1. Average weekly amounts are based on a 5 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
2. Data are collected quarterly therefore monthly figures are not available. The quarter November 2007 is not available.
3. Residual minimum income guarantee (MIG) cases are included in the IS figures. These are mainly cases where the claimant is aged under 60 and the partner over 60.
4. JSA(IB) figures include claimants in receipt of income-based JSA who would also be entitled to the contributory JSA element.
5. Average amounts can include other housing costs, for example ground rent.
6. The DWP reformed Income Support for Mortgage Interest (SMI) by shortening the waiting period before SMI is paid from 39 weeks to 13 weeks for new working age claims. This came into effect from 5 January 2009.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate. 5 per cent. samples

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of monies paid under the Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme was paid directly to *(a)* mortgage lenders and *(b)* households in each of the last three years. [316803]

Helen Goodman: Financial support is provided through benefit assistance towards payments of mortgage interest to homeowners who run into unforeseen difficulties. Help is provided towards the interest on mortgages—known as Support for Mortgage Interest (SMI) as part of Income Support (IS), income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA (IB)), and income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA (IR) and State Pension Credit (SPC).

The Mortgage Interest Direct (MID) Scheme was introduced in May 1992 in consultation with the Council of Mortgage Lenders. The scheme ensures Support for Mortgage Interest is paid direct to the lender. Membership of the scheme is voluntary, but the majority of the major lending institutions are members of the scheme.

Mortgage lenders who are not members of the MID Scheme do not have payments made direct to them. Instead customers receive housing cost payments in their benefit, and are responsible for maintaining their lending arrangement and forwarding these payments to the lender.

The available information is in the following table.

Income support (IS), jobseeker's allowance (income-based JSA) and pension credit (PC) claimants who receive support with mortgage interest (SMI) payments—Great Britain May 2009

Benefit	*Total claimants receiving assistance with SMI*	*MI paid direct to 3rd party*[1]	*MI included in housing costs paid to claimant*[2]
IS	79,600	78,000	1,600
JSA (IB)	19,400	18,100	1,400
PC	116,400	89,800	26,600

[1] The majority of the major lending institutions are members of the mortgage interest direct scheme (MID), a[illegible] there is a statutory obligation that mortgage interest payments are transferred direct to lenders.
[2] Mortgage lenders who are not members of the MID Scheme do not have payments made direct to them. Instead customers receive housing cost payments in their weekly benefit. They are responsible for maintaining their lending arrangement and forwarding these payments to the lender.
Notes:
1. Figures have been uprated using 5 per cent. proportions against 100 per cent. WPLS totals and rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Residual MIG cases are included in the IS figures. These are mainly cases where the claimant is aged under 60 and the partner over 60.
3. Support for Mortgage Interest is a component of income-based jobseeker's allowance so cannot be added to contribution-based jobseeker's allowance.
4. The DWP reformed Support for Mortgage Interest (SMI), by shortening the waiting period before SMI is paid from 39 weeks to 13 weeks for new working age claims. This came into effect from 5 January 2009.
5. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
Sources
1. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS)
2. Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate. 5 per cent. sample

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many applications for assistance from the Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme were received in each of the last 12 quarters; [316827]

(2) what proportion of applications for funding from the Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme was granted in each month since January 2008. [316804]

Helen Goodman: The information is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pension Credit

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the proportion of pensioners who were eligible for guarantee credit in *(a)* Chesterfield constituency, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* England in each year since 2003. [317649]

Angela Eagle: Estimates of eligibility are not available below the level of Great Britain.

The latest estimates of the take-up rates and the number of those entitled but not receiving pension credit are published in the report 'Income Related Benefits estimates of Take-Up in 2007-08', which is available in the House of Commons Library or on the DWP website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/irb.asp

Pensions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 747W, on pensions, if she will place in the Library a copy of each of the three written representations. [311743]

Angela Eagle: The summary of consultation responses can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/pae-regulations-2009-govt-response-sept09.pdf

It is not our normal practice to publish consultation responses individually. The hon. Gentleman may wish to contact the Local Government Employers and Communities and Local Government to request a copy directly.

Poverty

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families were classed as living in poverty in each financial year since 1996-97. [313163]

Helen Goodman: The requested information is given in the following table.

Total number of families and number and proportion of families living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, 1996-97 to 2007-08, Great Britain

		Proportion living in low income households		Number living in low income households	
	Number of families (million)	Before housing costs (percentage)	After housing costs (percentage)	Before housing costs (million)	After housing costs (million)
1996-97	28.9	19	25	5.4	7.3
1997-98	29.1	19	24	5.5	7.0
1998-99	29.3	19	24	5.4	7.0
1999-2000	29.4	19	24	5.5	7.0
2000-01	29.5	18	23	5.5	6.8
2001-02	29.7	18	22	5.4	6.6
2002-03	29.8	18	22	5.5	6.7
2003-04	30.1	18	21	5.4	6.4
2004-05	30.3	17	20	5.2	6.1
2005-06	30.7	18	21	5.5	6.5
2006-07	30.9	18	22	5.6	6.7
2007-08	31.1	19	22	5.8	6.8

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey. Both of these documents are available in the Library.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years.
4. Figures correspond to Great Britain only, because prior to 2002 these are the only figures available and so this shows the full run on a consistent basis.
5. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
6. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) equivalisation factors.
7. A family is defined as a single adult or couple living as married (including same sex partners from January 2006) and any dependent children.
8. Number of families in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand families and proportion of families have been rounded to the nearest per cent.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP

Social Security Benefits: Armed Forces

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects to publish guidance on entitlement to national insurance credits for spouses of members of HM armed forces on the direct.gov website. [318428]

Angela Eagle: Legislation which provides for a new National Insurance credit for the accompanying spouse or civil partner of a member of Her Majesty's forces, who is on an assignment outside the United Kingdom, is currently going through the legislative process and will come into force from 6 April 2010.

The associated guidance, which includes information as to who will benefit from this change is currently being produced and will shortly be made available via the appropriate routes including direct.gov.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance claimants there were in (i) Ashford constituency and (ii) Kent on the latest date for which figures are available. [313514]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is in the following table:

Number and proportion of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and employment and support allowance claimants in the Ashford constituency and Kent in May 2009

	Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance		Employment and support allowance	
	Number of claimants	Proportion of working age population as a percentage	Number of claimants	Proportion of working age population as a percentage
Ashford constituency	2,940	4.4	430	0.6
County of Kent	43,660	5.2	5,580	0.7

Notes:
1. Caseload has been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Percentages are shown to one decimal place.
3. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
4. The proportion of claimants shown for the Ashford constituency is a percentage of the whole of the Ashford constituency's working age population.
5. The proportion of claimants shown for the County of Kent is a percentage of the whole of the county of Kent's working age population. 6. The county of Kent includes the following local authorities: Ashford, Canterbury, Dartford, Dover, Gravesham, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Shepway, Swale, Thanet, Tonbridge and Malling, Malling, Tunbridge Wells.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate.

Social Security Benefits: Ex-servicemen

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 447W, on social security benefits: ex-servicemen, if she will take steps to ensure that local authorities implement a full disregard of all war pensions in considering eligibility for housing and council tax benefits. [318430]

Helen Goodman: The Government recognise the special nature of war pensions and will continue to do so. War pensioners are given preferential treatment through the generous system of mandatory disregards in the income-related benefits, including housing benefit and council tax benefit.

Under long-standing arrangements, local authorities have additional powers to disregard all or part of the remaining war pension when assessing housing benefit and council tax benefit entitlement as part of their local discretion.

Local authorities operating a local discretionary disregard in addition to the mandatory disregard of war pensions meet the majority of the costs but, since 2004, receive a contribution in their benefit subsidy in recognition of this.

The Government have no plans to amend legislation to make the full disregard of war pensions mandatory as we believe this is properly a responsibility that is devolved to local authorities to use their discretion in this matter.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people called the Benefit Fraud hotline in each of the last 12 months; how many such calls were followed up with an investigation; and how many prosecutions for benefit fraud leading to a conviction there have been in the same period. [302937]

Helen Goodman: Every call to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline is examined by the Department. Where there is enough evidence to indicate potential benefit fraud the case is passed to either the Fraud Investigation Service for further investigation or to our Customer Compliance teams in Jobcentre Plus who will scrutinise the relevant benefit claim and make adjustments to entitlements as necessary.

The number of prosecutions for benefit fraud leading to a conviction from National Benefit Fraud Hotline referrals is not available.

Available information is set out in the following table:

Number of calls followed up with an investigation

Number

	Calls to National Benefit Fraud Hotline	*Referred for further initial inquiries*	*In depth criminal investigation*	*Customer compliance interview*
2008				
November	19,107	6,588	3,444	6,144
December	12,826	7,277	2,499	5,288
2009				
January	26,879	10,495	3,245	7,042
February	19,741	8,709	3,113	6,004
March	21,113	9,737	3,510	6,773
April	22,380	8,176	3,252	6,095
May	19,497	8,182	3,616	6,160
June	22,828	9,893	3,443	6,847
July	25,725	9,321	3,594	6,741
August	21,389	7,777	2,834	5,333
September	21,305	12,515	5,438	8,272
October	24,462	9,197	3,462	5,046

Notes:
1. Monthly call data begin on the first Friday after the first Thursday of the month.
2. Number of calls to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline is the number of calls that are presented to the Contact Centre and enter the queue (or are answered immediately) during business hours. Business hours are 7am to 11pm.
3. Number of investigations is generated from the number of referrals/incidents accepted for investigation (i.e. those which result in a case being opened).
4. Figures represent Great Britain only (do not include Northern Ireland).
Sources:
1. National Benefit Fraud Hotline data provided by Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre Directorate.
2. Investigation data taken from DWP Fraud Referral and Investigation Management System.

Unemployment Benefits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many customers who have made successful claims for *(a)* jobseekers' allowance and *(b)* income support had previously made an unsuccessful claim for employment and support allowance in each quarter since the introduction of that allowance. [317037]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* The information is not available as records of unsuccessful claims are not included in the National Statistics datasets which underpin routine publication of benefit statistics.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work [illegible] Pensions what estimate has her Department made [illegible] additional on flows to *(a)* jobseekers' allowance and *(b)* income support attributable to the introduction of employment and support allowance in each quarter since October 2008. [317039]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* The requested information is not available.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate her Department has made of the projected caseloads for *(a)* jobseekers' allowance and (b) income support not reckoning the introduction of employment and support allowance in each quarter since October 2008. [317040]

Jim Knight [*holding answer 22 February 2010*]: The requested information is not available. No estimate has been made of caseloads for jobseeker's allowance or income support based on the employment and support allowance not having been introduced.

Unemployment Benefits: Medical Examinations

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contracts her Department has with external companies to conduct work capability assessments; and when each such contract is due to expire. [317750]

Jonathan Shaw: The DWP has one contract for the provision of medical services which is delivered on a national basis. The current medical services contract to conduct work capability assessments was awarded to Atos Healthcare, a subsidiary company of Atos Origin.

The contract commenced on 1 September 2005 and is due to expire on 31 August 2012. The Department has options to extend the contract for a further five years up to 31 August 2017.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many appeals against the outcomes of assessments for employment support allowance in (a) the UK and (b) Scotland there have been since 27 October 2008; in how many such cases the appeal has been upheld; and how many of the upheld appeals related to the outcomes of assessments undertaken in respect of a serious illness. [317755]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department publishes detailed information relating to the work capability assessment for employment and support allowance claims in Great Britain. Information is not available at a lower level. The report can be found at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/esa_wca_arc.asp

A copy is available in the Library. This report contains details of the number of initial assessments carried out since the introduction of employment and support allowance, a breakdown of the result of the assessment, including the fit for work decision and separate information relating to work capability assessment appeals.

Information about the number of work capability assessment appeals is in the table.

Work capability assessment appeals heard on 'Fit for Work' decisions employment and support allowance claims to December 2008/appeals heard by end of December 2009

	Number
Appeals heard	8,800

Notes:
1. Includes clerical assessments.
2. Volumes will increase in the coming months as more appeals are processed giving a more robust picture of appeal volumes and outcomes. It will then be possible to link this information to the work capability assessment data and provide information on proportions appealing.
3. Figure rounded to the nearest 100.

Data by medical conditions are not yet available for employment and support allowance. Information on appeal outcomes falls to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice.

Woolworths: Redundancy

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information her Department holds on the number of former Woolworth workers who (a) have received help through Jobcentre Plus, (b) are in employment and (c) are out of work. [304393]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the use of accident and emergency departments at (a) University College Hospital, (b) the Royal Free Hospital, (c) Whittington Hospital, (d) Barnet General Hospital, (e) North Middlesex Hospital and (f) Chase Farm Hospital in each year since 2000. [318019]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information is collected on first attendances in accident and emergency (A and E) departments. This excludes follow-up visits for the same condition, but counts each attendance by the same patient for different conditions separately. The following table shows reported first attendances for north central London by national health service trust.

First attendances at accident and emergency (A&E) departments, minor injury units and walk-in centres, Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals, North Middlesex University Hospital, Royal Free Hampstead, The Whittington Hospital, University College London Hospitals

		First attendances								
OrgID	Name	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	113,020	112,805	113,918	125,269	137,251	146,758	148,436	145,965	150,072
RAP	North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	83,245	83,125	84,968	127,812	142,414	153,283	151,702	108,822	107,902
RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	56,881	56,088	59,474	66,172	73,522	75,130	73,717	4,002	7,308

First attendances at accident and emergency (A&E) departments, minor injury units and walk-in centres, Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals, North Middlesex University Hospital, Royal Free Hampstead, The Whittington Hospital, University College London Hospitals

First attendances

OrgID	*Name*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
RKE	The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	67,833	65,275	65,904	69,482	77,283	89,921	91,715	89,231	86,991
RRV	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation	63,386	61,202	65,196	70,956	76,910	82,109	91,429	94,962	93,558

Notes:
1. These data are subject to our formal revision policy.
2. A&E attendances were collected annually from 1987-88 to 2002-03 on the KH09 as A&E/MIU.
3. WiC attendances were added in Ql 2003-04.
4. A&E attendances were first collected in Ql 2002-03 on the QMAE.
5. IS provided services were added in Ql 2007-08. These data were collected retrospectively at the end of 2007-08. They were added to the QMAE from Ql 2008-09.
6. North Middlesex reported a WiC between 2004-05 and 2006-07.
7. The Whittington reported a WiC from 2004-05 to 2008-09.

Source:
Department of Health dataset KH09, QMAE.

Cancer: Health Services

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the change has been in the average level of NHS expenditure on an individual cancer patient in the last five years. [318697]

Ann Keen: This information is not held in the requested format. We are not able to provide information on what change there has been in the average level of national health service expenditure on an individual cancer patient in the last five years. We are able to provide information on gross expenditure per capita on cancers and tumours in England.

Gross expenditure per capita on cancers and tumours in England

	Total spend (£000)	*England populations*	*Spend per head (£)*
2003-04	3,385,750	49,175,998	68.85
2004-05	3,773,203	49,175,998	76.73
2005-06	4,302,656	49,175,998	87.50
2006-07	4,352,462	50,476,231	86.23
2007-08	4,964,282	50,695,909	97.92
2008-09	5,134,948	51,220,531	100.25

Notes:
1. Expenditure figures are from estimated England level programme budgeting data, which are calculated using primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority programme budgeting returns and Department of Health Resource Accounts data. Figures will include an estimation of special health authority expenditure.
2. In order to improve data quality, continual refinements have been made to the programme budgeting data calculation methodology since the first collection in 2003-04. The underlying data which support programme budgeting data are also subject to yearly changes. Caution is therefore advised when using programme budgeting data to draw conclusions on changes in PCT spending patterns between years.
3. Figures do not include expenditure on cancer screening, health promotion programmes or general practitioner expenditure. Populations are those used for PCT resource allocations.

Cancer: Nurses

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the Prime Minister's plans to provide specialist cancer nurses for all people in England who *(a)* have and *(b)* have had cancer; how many new nurses such additional funding would provide; and from which budget it will be taken; [318891]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of specialist cancer nurses required to provide support at home for all in England who *(a)* have and *(b)* have had cancer; how many such nurses would be newly-trained nurses; and how many hours of support per week on average he estimates each such person would need. [318892]

Ann Keen: We are investing £20 million in 2011-12 to work with Macmillan to introduce more specialist cancer nurse posts. The £20 million has been found from funding released from programmes launched by the Next Stage review, which will either have been implemented fully by 2011-12, or which funded development activities which are now reaching a planned conclusion.

Current estimates are that up to half of cancer patients do not have one-to-one support, which could mean that we would need to double the number of people who provide such support. We are currently carrying out a detailed assessment of work force needs. This includes considering different possible models and levels of support, which may vary according to where someone is on the patient pathway.

It is likely that most of the additional work force will need to receive training, and we will be looking at what needs to be done to ensure that the work force is appropriately trained.

Departmental Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his plans are in respect of *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital expenditure for (i) his Department and (ii) the NHS budget in 2010-11. [318185]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Expenditure plans for 2010-11 are set out in the Departmental Report 2009:

(a) Resource in Figure A5: Page 219

(b) Capital expenditure in Figure A7: Page 221.

These tables include a split of expenditure that shows departmental expenditure, and overall expenditure in the national health service.

Departmental Statistics

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's latest statistics on the percentage of courses of dental treatment for the same patient re-attending within *(a)* three months and *(b)* three to nine months in each primary care trust. [318173]

Ann Keen: The information requested is contained in a table, which has been placed in the Library.

Derriford Hospital

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training procedures have been put in place for nursing staff at Derriford Hospital following the transfer of the upper gastro-intestinal cancer unit from the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. [318168]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not held centrally, and this is a matter for the local national health service.

Down's Syndrome: Dementia

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to support people with Down's syndrome who have dementia. [318145]

Phil Hope: Improving services for dementia, including people with learning difficulties who also have dementia, is a Government priority. The Government launched the first ever National Dementia Strategy and implementation plan in February 2009, backed by £150 million in funding to primary care trusts in 2009-10 and 2010-11. Mention is made throughout the strategy on the particular needs of people with learning difficulties.

Hackney

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Hackney North and Stoke Newington constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997. [318377]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government have put in place a programme of national health service investment and reform since 1997 to improve service delivery in all parts of the United Kingdom. 93 per cent. of people nationally now rate the NHS as good or excellent. The NHS Constitution contains 25 rights and 14 pledges for patients and the public including new rights to be treated within 18 weeks, or be seen by a cancer specialist within two weeks, and an NHS health check every five years for those aged 40-74 years.

There is significant evidence that these policies have yielded considerable benefits for the Hackney North and Stoke Newington constituency.

For example, figures for December 2009 show that in City and Hackney primary care trust (PCT):

94 per cent. of patients whose treatment involved admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

98 per cent. of patients whose treatment did not involve admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

Between September 2001 and September 2008 the number of general practitioners (GPs) per 100,000 people within City and Hackney PCT has increased from 69.9 to 81.8.

In September 2009, at Barts and the London NHS Trust, 98.3 per cent. of patients spent less than four hours in accident and emergency from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge.

In September 2009, at Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, 98.5 per cent. of patients spent less than four hours in accident and emergency from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge.

Between September 1997 and September 2008 the number of consultants at Barts and the London NHS Trust increased from 177 to 417. Between September 1997 and September 2008 the estimated number of nurses increased from 1,991 to 2,641.

Between September 1997 and September 2008 the number of consultants at Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust increased from 29 to 86. Between September 1997 and September 2008 the estimated number of nurses increased from 615 to 1,029.

93.4 per cent. of urgent GP referrals to Barts and the London NHS Trust with suspected cancer are seen by a specialist within two weeks of the referral.

96.2 per cent. of urgent GP referrals to Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust with suspected cancer are seen by a specialist within two weeks of the referral.

Although statistical information is not available at a local level, Hackney North and Stoke Newington will have also benefitted from national policies in other areas. For example:

Since 1997, gross current expenditure on personal social services has increased by around 70 per cent. in real terms with around 105,000 households now receiving intensive home care and 3,076 new extra care housing units—exceeding the original target of 1,500 new extra care units.

Other strategies currently being implemented are:

Subject to parliamentary approval, the Personal Care at Home Bill will guarantee free personal care for 280,000 people with the highest needs and help around 130,000 people who need home care for the first time to regain their independence;

The "Shaping the Future of Care Together" Green Paper, published in July 2009, sets out a vision for a National Care Service for all adults in England which is fair, simple and affordable. The Department has consulted widely on this reform and is currently analysing the responses which will feed into a White Paper later this year;

The National Carer's Strategy ("Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities") launched in 2008;

The first National Dementia Strategy was published in February 2009;

"Valuing People Now"—a three year strategy for people with learning disabilities published in January 2009; and

"New Horizons: A Shared Vision for Mental Health"—launched in December 2009—to maintain improvements in mental health services combined with a new cross-Government approach to promoting public mental health.

Since 1998, there are now 2.4 million fewer smokers in England as a result of the Government's comprehensive tobacco control strategy which has had a measurable impact on reducing smoking prevalence.

Child obesity levels are reducing due to the efforts of families across England, supported by the Government's obesity strategy. In 2008, 13.9 per cent. of children (aged 2 to 10) in England were classified as obese, compared with 17.3 per cent. in 2005.

Overall, life expectancy at birth for men has increased from 74.5 years (1995-1997 data) to 77.7 years (2006-08 data) while for women, life expectancy at birth has increased from 79.6 years (1995-97 data) to 81.9 years (2006-08 data).

Health Services: Gloucestershire

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely number of hospital beds provided by *(a)* NHS foundation and *(b)* primary care trusts in Gloucestershire in the financial year (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12. [318787]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not collected centrally.

It is for the local national health service organisations to plan, develop and improve services for local people.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely number of *(a)* specialists, *(b)* doctors, *(c)* nursing staff and *(d)* auxiliary staff in each (i) NHS foundation and (ii) primary care trust in Gloucestershire in the financial year (A) 2010-11 and (B) 2011-12. [318788]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Local national health service organisations are best placed to assess the health needs of their local community and plan the workforce and training requirements of the staff that they need.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department plans to provide for *(a)* NHS foundation and *(b)* primary care trusts in Gloucestershire in the financial year (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12. [318790]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not collected in the format requested.

On 8 December 2008, primary care trusts (PCTs) were informed of their allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11. The allocations to PCTs in Gloucestershire are shown in the following table.

£ million

	2009-10	*2010-11*
Gloucestershire PCT	825.9	868.5
South Gloucestershire PCT	323.1	339.7

PCT allocations for 2011-12 onwards are yet to be determined. However, as announced in the pre-Budget report in December 2009, front-line NHS spending will be protected for the following two years to 2012-13.

The Department does not make allocations directly to foundation trusts. It is for PCTs to use the funding allocated to them to commission services to meet the needs of their local populations.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason the effect on the delivery of healthcare services of changes to funding provided by his Department to *(a)* NHS foundation trusts and *(b)* primary care trusts in Gloucestershire between financial years 2010-11 and 2011-12 was not discussed at the meeting held on 22 January 2010 at the Gloucestershire primary care trust headquarters. [318791]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department had no involvement in the meeting held on 22 January 2010 at the Gloucestershire primary care trust headquarters.

This was a meeting of the Gloucestershire Members of Parliament and the chairs and chief executives (or their representatives) of the Gloucestershire national health service organisations: Gloucestershire primary care trust, Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, 2gether NHS Foundation Trust and Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department was informed of proposals to cut £27 million from the budget of the Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for 2010-11 by *(a)* Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust and *(b)* Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. [318793]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department was not informed by Gloucestershire primary care trust or Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust of the proposals to cut £27 million from the budget of the Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for 2010-11.

The Department does not make allocations directly to foundation trusts. It is for primary care trusts to use the funding allocated to them to commission services to meet the needs of their local populations.

Health Services: Worcestershire

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to allow further time for NHS Worcestershire to consult on changes to the purchaser/provider split to enable local views to be taken fully into account before developing a preferred option for the delivery of community services; and if he will make a statement. [318586]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There are no plans to extend the deadline set in the 'NHS Operating Framework 2010/11' for primary care trusts (PCTs) to agree their proposals for the future organisational form of all current PCT-provided community services with their strategic health authority.

When determining the timetable for planning and implementing proposals for the future form of PCT-provided community services, the Department took account of the need to create greater stability within community services to provide certainty for community service staff and a firm foundation for service transformation. Consideration was given to the pivotal role community services play in helping the national health service to meet the productivity and quality challenge. This will enable the NHS to accelerate service integration to deliver the vision of more integrated care delivered closer to home, as set out in 'NHS 2010-2015: from good to great. Preventative, people-centred, productive'.

The 'Operating Framework 2010/11' and 'NHS 2010-2015: ~~from~~ good to great. Preventative, people-centred, productive' have already been placed in the Library and are also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/index.htm

Health: Islington

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what comparative information on health inequalities in Islington his Department holds on *(a)* teenage pregnancy, *(b)* infant mortality, *(c)* life expectancy, *(d)* obesity and *(e)* HIV/AIDS in (i) 1990, (ii) 1995, (iii) 2000, (iv) 2005 and (v) the latest date for which figures are available. [318033]

Gillian Merron: The data are not available in the requested format.

Information relevant to teenage pregnancy and infant mortality is not held centrally.

However, data are available from the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The information requested on obesity is not held centrally. However, data on obesity in adults and children in England have been published in the Health Survey for England. However, data on the number of obese adults and children in Islington are unavailable.

The following table provides ONS data for life expectancy in Islington and England. Life expectancy data for Islington are not available for 1989-91.

The following tables provides Health Protection Agency Information on those affected by Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency (HIV/AIDS) within the Islington Primary Care Trust (PCT) area.

Life expectancy at birth (years), Islington local authority and England

—	1991-1993	1994-1996	1999-2001	2004-2006	2006-2008
Males, Islington	71	72	73	75	75
Males, England	74	74	76	77	78
Females, Islington	78	78	79	80	81
Females, England	79	80	80	82	82

Notes:

1 Figures are rounded to the nearest integer.

2 All figures are three-year averages, produced by aggregating the number of deaths registered in each year and mid-year population estimates across each three-year period.

3 Figures are period life expectancies at birth. Period expectation of life at birth for an area in a given time period is an estimate of the average number of years a newborn baby would survive if he or she experienced the particular area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout his or her life. It is not therefore the number of years a newborn baby in the area in each time period could actually expect to live, both because the death rates of the area are likely to change in the future and because many of those born In the area will live elsewhere for at least some part of their lives.

4 All figures are calculated using abridged life tables. Deaths of non-residents are excluded from the data for England. (The England figures presented here may differ slightly from figures quoted elsewhere based on National Interim Life Tables, which are calculated using complete life tables and include deaths of non-residents).

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Information on numbers of individuals newly diagnosed with HIV or AIDS in Islington PCT and individuals accessing HIV-related care in Islington PCT are presented by sex, age at diagnosis, probable route of infection and ethnic group in the following tables.

Table 1: Individuals newly diagnosed with HIV in Islington PCT: new HIV and first AIDS diagnoses by year of diagnosis

PCT of diagnosis	*Report type*	*Year of diagnosis*				
		1990	*1995*	*2000*	*2005*	*2008*
Islington PCT	HIV diagnoses [1]	30	46	25	56	14
	AIDS diagnoses [1]	12	16	<5	<5	0

[1] A further eight individuals diagnosed with HIV in the Camden and Islington area and seven individuals diagnosed with AIDS were reported, however it is not possible to determine which PCT these individuals were diagnosed in.

Table 2: Individuals newly diagnosed with HIV in Islington PCT: by year of diagnosis and sex

Report type and sex		*Year of diagnosis*				
		1990	*1995*	*2000*	*2005*	*2008*
HIV diagnoses	Men	25	29	12	28	8
	Women	5	17	13	28	6

Table 3: Individuals newly diagnosed with HIV in Islington PCT: by year and age at diagnosis

Report type and age at diagnosis		*Year of diagnosis*				
		1990	*1995*	*2000*	*2005*	*2008*
HIV diagnoses	<20	<5	<5	<5	5	0
	20-34	18	26	15	21	7
	35-44	8	14	<5	20	<5
	45-54	<5	<5	<5	7	<5
	55+	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5

Table 4: Individuals newly diagnosed with HIV in Islington PCT: by year of diagnosis and probable route of infection

Report type and sex		*Year of diagnosis*				
		1990	*1995*	*2000*	*2005*	*2008*
HIV diagnoses	Sex between men	20	18	7	15	<5
	Heterosexual contact	6	25	16	37	8
	Other	<5	<5	<5	<5	0

Table 5: Individuals newly diagnosed with HIV in Islington PCT: by year of diagnosis and ethnicity

Report type and sex		*Year of diagnosis*				
		1990	*1995*	*2000*	*2005*	*2008*
HIV diagnoses	White	14	19	10	13	5
	Black African	<5	10	10	30	<5
	Other	<5	<5	<5	9	<5

Notes:
1. Diagnoses are from reports received to end June 2009. Numbers will rise as further reports are received.
2. Patients may live with HIV for many years before they are diagnosed. Therefore, new diagnosis data do not necessarily reflect recently acquired infections.
3. Areas when presented are area of diagnoses and not of residence.
4. Cells with counts under five have been masked to avoid the risk of deductive disclosure of an individual's identity.
5. AIDS diagnoses relate to a person's first diagnosis of an AIDS defining illness (subsequent diagnoses are not recorded).
6. AIDS diagnoses were not presented by sex, age, ethnicity or probable route of infection as numbers were too low.
7. With the Whittington hospital being the only major diagnosing site located within Islington Primary care Trust (PCT), it is highly probable that persons resident within Islington PCT are being diagnosed in neighbouring PCTs.

Table 6: number of diagnosed HIV-infected patients accessing care, resident in Islington PCT, by age group: 2000, 2005 and 2008

	0-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Total
2000	10	9	234	276	58	22	609
2005	12	24	223	524	182	53	1018
2008	5	35	198	588	319	92	1,237

Table 7: number of diagnosed HIV-infected patients accessing care, resident in Islington PCT, by ethnic group: 2000, 2005 and 2008

	White	Black-Caribbean	Black-African	Black other	Indian/Pakistani /Bangladeshi	Other/mixed	Not known	Total
2000	465	6	72	11	6	44	5	609
2005	701	28	176	18	8	74	13	1,018
2008	823	38	206	21	14	101	34	1,237

Table 8: number of diagnosed HIV-infected patients accessing care, resident in Islington PCT, by route of infection: 2000, 2005 and 2008

	Sex between men	Injecting drug use	Heterosexual sex	Other	Not known	Total
2000	444	37	112	14	<5	608-611
2005	716	44	230	20	8	1,018
2008	823	47	281	18	68	1,237

Notes:
1. Cells with counts under five have been masked to avoid the risk of deductive disclosure of an individual's identity.
2. Data are not available for 1990 and 1995.
3. With the Whittington Hospital being the only major diagnosing site located within Islington PCT, it is highly probable that persons resident within Islington PCT are being diagnosed in neighbouring PCTs.

Source:
Health Protection Agency

Home Care Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of any unintended consequences of plans to provide free personal care at home for those in greatest need; and what steps his Department is taking to mitigate any such unintended consequences. [318191]

Phil Hope: The assessments made by the Department for the Personal Care at Home Bill are set out in the impact assessment, which has already been placed in the Library. The Department is committed to reviewing the policy within 12-18 months; any unintended or unforeseen consequences will be examined at that time.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 385-6W, on home care services, for what reason the Personal Social Services EX1 return cost of care per hour was not used in respect of the Personal Care at Home Bill. [318402]

Phil Hope: The latest Personal Social Services EX1 return (PSS EX1), provisional 2008-09 data, shows that, for adults and older people receiving home care, the hourly cost is £15 per hour (sample week activity).

The hourly cost of care used in the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) model is based on this figure, but has been adjusted to £15.75 per hour at 2011-12 prices. We have used the PSSRU modelling, since it is specialist independent analysis, using a microsimulation model constructed to produce analyses for the Care and Support Green Paper and White Paper.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what methodology was used to calculate the 6.54 figure for the average number of hours of personal care per week on page 16 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill. [318474]

Phil Hope: The figure of 6.54 hours per week is drawn from the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) modelling, which is in turn rooted in current patterns of care. The PSSRU model shows an average package of community-based care for those in the critical Fair Access to Care Services category of around 8.7 hours per week. The PSSRU assumes, on the basis of Personal Social Services EX1 return (PSS EX1) data, that 74 per cent. of this package—around 6.5 hours per week—is home care. The Department then assumes that around 85 per cent. of the home care hours—around 5.5 hours per week on average—is personal care.

The cost estimate for the Personal Care at Home Bill implies eight hours of personal care per week for new entrants to publicly funded care. This is because the Department has made more generous allowance for the demand effects of free personal care than the PSSRU modelling.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health from which budgets he expects his

Department's contribution to the funding of free personal care at home to be made; and by how much in each such case. [318184]

Phil Hope: Changes to planned expenditure in 2010-11 to cover the Department's contribution to the funding of the Personal Care at Home Bill include nearly £50 million from indicative advertising and communications spending, over £60 million from management consultancy spending and over £20 million in reduced administration costs.

In addition, a saving of £62 million will be achieved by transferring responsibility for research activity from other departmental budgets to the Department's ring-fenced research and development budget. That budget will rise to over £1 billion in 2010-11. The research it currently funds will continue as planned.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has received recent reports that GPs in some areas are delaying referrals to hospital for treatment in order to meet waiting time targets. [318189]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department is not aware of recent reports that general practitioners (GPs) in some areas are delaying referrals to hospital for treatment in order to meet waiting time targets.

GPs have a duty to ensure that patient referrals are based on clinical need. Our policy is clear: all patients should be treated without unnecessary delay according to their clinical need.

Independent Sector Treatment Centres Programme

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on each stage of the independent sector treatment centres programme to date; and what percentage of contract activities such centres have undertaken at each such stage. [318181]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Independent Sector Treatment Centre (ISTC) programme was procured in two stages known as Wave One and Phase Two.

Payments for activity have been made to ISTC providers as follows:

Wave One £1,324.7 million and Phase Two £227.5 million (as at 31 December 2009).

The utilisation of ISTCs is continuing to improve and at the end of 2009 stood at 86 per cent. for Wave One and 78 per cent. for Phase Two.

Leukaemia: Drugs

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support will be given to people diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukaemia if the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommends against the use of the drugs dasatinib and nilotinib. [318382]

Ann Keen: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has not yet published final guidance on the use of dasatinib and nilotinib for the treatment of chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) that is resistant to imatinib. NICE has published draft guidance and stakeholders now have until 2 March to comment on NICE'S recommendations.

Alternative treatment options for CML that is resistant to imatinib include interferon alfa, hydroxycarbamide or best supportive care. Guidance on best supportive care for patients with CML is set out in the NICE guidance "Improving outcomes in haematological cancers", published in 2003.

National Care Service

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the cost of the introduction of a national care service. [318187]

Phil Hope: The most recent estimate of the cost of proposals for reform of the care and support system as set out in the Green Paper, 'Shaping the Future of Care Together', was published in the Green Paper Impact Assessment available online at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_102338

Copies have already been placed in the Library.

Details of the costs and benefits of reform of the care and support system will be set out in more detail in our White Paper to be published this year.

NHS

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health under what circumstances social enterprises can tender for provision of NHS services; and if he will make a statement. [318501]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Where commissioners decide to procure services through competitive tender, all providers should have a fair and equal opportunity to bid. Further guidance will be set out in a revised PCT Procurement Guide, due to be published shortly.

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines apply to the operation of the NHS as a preferred provider; and whether those guidelines make provision for mutual providers. [318506]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Guidance will be set out in detail in a revised PCT procurement guide due to be published shortly.

NHS Direct

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost of a call to NHS Direct was in 2009. [317691]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not collected. Calls to NHS Direct cost a maximum of 5p per minute from a BT landline. Mobiles and other networks may vary.

NHS: Capital Expenditure

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has for NHS capital expenditure beyond 2010-11. [318183]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not yet available. Expenditure beyond 2010-11 will be agreed as part of the next spending review. As set out in pre-Budget report December 2009 paragraph 6.23:

"the Government is not doing a spending review at this stage."

NHS: Complaints

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health to which body complaints about chairs of NHS hospital trusts should be directed. [318219]

Ann Keen: The nature of the individual complaint determines the body to which the complaint should be directed.

Complaints relating to the functions of a national health service trust may be sent directly to that trust, which is responsible for investigating complaints in respect of those functions; if relevant, this includes the actions of the NHS trust board.

Complaints about the conduct or performance of the chair should be referred to the NHS trust in the first instance. If the correspondent is dissatisfied with the NHS trust's response, the matter should then be referred to the relevant strategic health authority (SHA) chair, who will investigate the matter. If an SHA chair feels the allegations are serious enough to warrant possible suspension or termination of the chair's appointment, he or she will refer the case to the Appointments Commission.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the percentage change to his Department's funding for *(a)* NHS foundation trusts and *(b)* primary care trusts is between financial years 2010-11 and 2011-12; and when the trusts were notified of these changes. [318789]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: On 8 December 2008 primary care trusts (PCTs) were informed of their revenue allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11. The allocations are set out in the following table.

	2009-10	*2010-11*
Total PCT revenue allocations (£ billion)	80	84
Increase on previous year (£ billion)	4.2	4.4
Increase on previous year (percentage)	5.5	5.5

PCT revenue allocations for 2011-12 onwards are yet to be determined. However, as announced in the pre-Budget report in December of last year, front-line national health service spending will rise in line with inflation for the following two years to 2012-13.

The Department does not make allocations directly to foundation trusts. It is for PCTs to use the funding allocated to them to commission services from foundation trusts and other providers to meet the needs of their local populations.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the points-based immigration system on the NHS's ability to recruit specialist consultants from outside the European economic area. [318220]

Ann Keen: The national health service is able to recruit specialist consultants through the points-based system either through tier 1 or, where there is no suitable United Kingdom or European economic area applicant, through tier 2.

Consultants in some specialities are on the tier 2 shortage occupation list which means their recruitment can be fast-tracked and does not require a full resident labour market test.

Nurses

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the post-operative nurse to patient ratio is for high risk operations at *(a)* The Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital and *(b)* Derriford Hospital, Plymouth. [318210]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Nurses: Cancer

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of plans to provide specialist cancer nurses for all 1.6 million people in England who have or who have had cancer; and from which budget it will be funded. [318223]

Ann Keen: We are investing £20 million in 2011-12 to work with Macmillan to introduce more specialist cancer nurse posts. The £20 million has been found from funding released from programmes launched by the Next Stage review, which will either have been implemented fully by 2011-12, or which funded development activities which are now reaching a planned conclusion.

Current estimates are that up to half of cancer patients do not have one-to-one support. We will be looking at possible new models of care, which will have an impact on the number of new nurses needed.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of specialist cancer nurses required to provide support at home for all 1.6 million people in England who have or who have had cancer; how many such nurses would require training; and what estimate he has made of the number of hours per week each person requiring such support would need. [318224]

Ann Keen: Current estimates are that up to half of cancer patients do not have one-to-one support, which could mean that we would need to double the number of people who provide such support. We are currently carrying out a detailed assessment of work force needs. This includes considering different possible models and levels of support, which may vary according to where someone is on the patient pathway.

It is likely that most of the additional work force will need to receive training, and we will be looking at what needs to be done to ensure that the work force is appropriately trained.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to introduce free prescriptions for all those with long-term medical conditions; and what his most recent estimate is of the cost to his Department. [318188]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Professor Gilmore has now submitted his report on exempting people with long-term conditions from prescription charges to the Department. The recommendations are currently being considered. The cost of introducing the new exemption will depend on how the changes are phased in. We will publish our response shortly.

Royal Liverpool Hospital

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress he has made in his consideration of proposals for the rebuilding of the Royal Liverpool Hospital; and if he will make a statement. [318758]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Outline Business Case (OBC) for the £453 million private finance initiative proposal to redevelop Royal Liverpool university hospital is currently with the Department for approval. Subject to approval by departmental officials and Ministers the OBC will then go to the Treasury for approval.

Social Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 294W, on social services, if he will place in the Library a copy of the legal advice. [318403]

Phil Hope: Legal advice to the Government is confidential, and is covered by legal professional privilege. This enables the Government to obtain full and frank legal advice. For this reason, the Department does not intend to publish any legal advice it has received on this matter.

Strokes: Children

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will introduce *(a)* an audit of stroke care for children and *(b)* a national registration system for childhood stroke; and if he will make a statement. [318359]

Ann Keen: It is for the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) who manage the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP) on behalf of the Department to invite applications for new clinical audits each year, subject to the funding being available. The details are on their website at:

www.hqip.org.uk/national-clinical-audit/

All new applications are considered by The National Clinical Audit Advisory Group (NCAAG), which advises the Department on the NCAPOP. NCAAG has set out advice on the criteria to be used to prioritise topics for new national clinical audits. This is available from the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/ab/NCAAG/index.htm

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent financial support his Department has provided for research into the causes, outcomes and treatment of childhood stroke. [318360]

Gillian Merron: Two National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) biomedical research centres[1] are undertaking research on aspects of childhood stroke. Their estimated spend on the topic is £370,000 over the two years 2007 to 2009.

The NIHR clinical research network is currently providing NHS research infrastructure support to one study concerned with the outcome of childhood stroke.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) meanwhile is not funding research specifically relating to the condition. However, the MRC funds a broad portfolio of more general stroke related research on which £10.1 million was spent in 2008-09. It includes basic and underpinning research that may increase understanding of the condition in childhood.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when his Department expects to implement in full the Royal College of Physicians' clinical guidance on childhood stroke; and if he will make a statement; [318361]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to raise public and professional awareness of childhood stroke; [318362]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to increase support for carers of those affected by childhood stroke. [318363]

Ann Keen: Implementation of the Royal College of Physicians' clinical guidance is a local responsibility. It is for commissioners, in consultation with their providers, to specify services for their local populations on the basis of need, including children and young people.

The Government's policy document, 'Healthy lives, brighter futures: the strategy for children and young peoples health', raises awareness of the need to address rare and complex conditions in childhood and includes a commitment to make sure that, by 2010, all children with complex health needs will have individual care plans to support co-ordinated care. Work is in hand to ensure this commitment is met.

Support for the carers of children with complex conditions is a key feature of care plans. We are moving towards a situation where families can expect 24/7 access to advice and support from Community Children's Nursing Teams; a single lead professional for the family, who can liaise with the various agencies involved in delivering national health service care; and an integrated package of care.

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[1] Hammersmith Hospitals and St. Mary's Hospital National Health Service Trusts/Imperial College London; and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS trust/University College London Institute of Child Health.

As a further step, the Department will shortly publish the final version of the National Framework for Children and Young People's Continuing Care. This will help with assessing the continuing health care needs of children and young people, and with considering the bespoke packages of care that will be required to meet those needs.

Tetra: Health Hazards

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent evidence he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects on human health of Tetra masts; [318163]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the health effects of Tetra masts on members of the public. [318164]

Gillian Merron: The Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research programme, funded by Government and industry, commissioned a study by Essex University concerning exposure of volunteers to radiofrequency signals typical of those from Tetra masts. The outcome of this study was published on 14 January 2010 in a paper, title "Do Tetra (Airwave) base station signals have a short-term impact on health and well-being? A randomized double-blind provocation study" by Wallace and co-workers in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives. This paper can be obtained online at:

http://ehp03.niehs.nih.gov/article/fetchArticle.action?articleURI=info%3Adoi%2F10.1289%2Fehp.0901416

The Department has received around 11 items of correspondence about Tetra signals from members of the public, either direct or through their MP.

Tuberculosis: Drugs

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what processes his Department has put in place to ensure that the supply of antituberculosis drugs in the UK is not interrupted. [318138]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are not aware of any current shortages of antituberculosis medicines. Due to the complex nature of pharmaceutical production, medicines supply problems can unexpectedly arise for a number of reasons. The Department and the Pharmaceutical Industry have produced joint best practice guidelines which are designed to help minimise the impact of medicine shortages and discontinuations. The guidelines give advice to companies and encourage early exchange of information. This allows consideration of the options that are available to help ensure that patients continue to get the medicines they need.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ensure a redistribution of Adult Safeguarded Learning funds as part of the transfer of responsibility for informal learning from the Learning and Skills Council to the Skills Funding Agency. [318437]

Kevin Brennan: LSC funding for this type of provision is part of a much wider and more complex funding framework and any proposals for redistribution would need to be considered in this wider context.

The White Paper made it clear that a concerted and sustained effort from partners and stakeholders at national and local levels would be required to bring the "Learning Revolution" vision to life. The new funding and planning arrangements set out in Chapter 4 of "The Learning Revolution" are playing a key role in this transformation and so from August 2011 the Skills Funding Agency will channel funding for informal adult learning in local or sub-regional areas through identified Lead Accountable Bodies. We will invite all local authorities to take part in these new arrangements.

We are working closely with the Local Government Association, the Local Education Authorities Forum for the Education of Adults, the Association of Colleges, Ofsted and other delivery partners to develop a Lead Accountable Body model that will enable local authorities to discharge this pivotal leadership role. Accepting the role of Lead Accountable Body will enable local authorities to better position their own resources alongside those of the Skills Funding Agency, as part of a local learning infrastructure. This in turn will help to promote the wider personalisation agenda across a number of fronts, and enable other local services, like libraries, to play an important role in broadening choice for local people.

Debit Cards: Protection

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to provide statutory protection to consumers in respect of debit card purchases in circumstances in which a company enters administration without having provided the goods or services purchased. [314410]

Kevin Brennan: As announced in the Consumer White Paper, "A Better Deal for Consumers", in July 2009, the Government is reassessing the regulatory framework for prepayments, and that includes looking at the effectiveness of the protection offered by debit cards. A number of proposals are being considered and the Government hope to be in position to announce its findings shortly.

Departmental Consultants

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in 2009. [317252]

Mr. McFadden: Central records indicate that the Department paid a total of £6,354,203 in external consultancy fees since its inception (announced on 5 June 2009) to 31 December 2009.

Further details, including provision of non-departmental public body information, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond directly to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 25 February 2010:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question on how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by (a) his Department and (b) each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in 2009.

The Insolvency Service spent £155,584.50 on external consultants and advisers in 2009.

Letter from Tim Moss, dated 15 February 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 9 February 2010, UIN 317252 to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House spent £152,499 on external consultants and advisers in 2009.

Letter from John Alty, dated 16 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 09 February 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office, an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills spent £105,000 on consultants and advisors in 2009.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 24 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question asking the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, how much was spent on external consultants and advisers in 2009.

Using the OGC definition of those who supply advice related to the Agency's strategy, structure, management or operations, our records indicate that in the Calendar Year 2009 the National Measurement Office paid £35,502.10 to external consultants and advisers.

Energy

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure effective use of the UK's expertise in fusion energy research. [318556]

Mr. Lammy: The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) has the responsibility for the funding of magnetic confinement fusion research while the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) funds laser-driven or inertial confinement fusion research.

EPSRC and STFC have recently updated the Research Council's strategy for the support of fusion research, assisted by an Expert Group chaired by Professor Keith Burnett, Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield University. The Expert Group's vision for fusion, and the key points of the new fusion strategy, have been published on the websites of EPSRC and STFC.

Erasmus

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the UK has contributed to the budget of the Erasmus programme in each year since 1997. [318665]

Mr. Lammy: The UK makes no direct financial contribution to the budget of the European Commission's Erasmus programme which is funded through the Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme. This Department (and its predecessors) has paid an annual management fee to a national agent, currently the British Council, to manage the delivery of the programme across the UK on behalf of the Government.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UK students resident in the UK have participated in the Erasmus scheme since 1997. [318666]

Mr. Lammy: The following table shows number of UK students who have participated in the Erasmus scheme since 1997.

Academic year	*UK students participating in Erasmus*
1996/97	10,537
1997/98	10,582
1998/99	9,994
1999/2000	10,056
2000/01	9,020
2001/02	8,475
2002/03	7,973
2003/04	7,539
2004/05	7,214
2005/06	7,131
2006/07	7,235
2007/08	10,278
2008/09	10,827

Source:

The European Commission statistics:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/erasmus/doc920_en.htm

except 2008/09 and 2009/10, where the data is the latest estimates from the British Council and is subject to confirmation.

Early indications show that in the current academic year (2009/10), 11,302 UK students will take part in Erasmus.

Higher Education: Admissions

Michael Gove: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 605-10W, on higher education: admissions, what proportion of pupils in receipt of free school meals in 2002-03 who progressed to higher education in 2006-07 attended a *(a)* school, *(b)* further education college and *(c)* sixth form college before entering higher education. [318404]

Mr. Lammy: The information is not available in the form requested.

Higher Education: Further Education

Mr. Willis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which universities have withdrawn funding for higher education provided in further education colleges in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [318785]

Kevin Brennan: Following our 2006 White Paper "Further Education: Improving Skills, Raising Life Chances", the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) introduced a code of practice for franchised provision of higher education in further education colleges. HEFCE do not monitor individual franchise agreements between higher education institutions and further education colleges. However, the data provided in the table show that the total number of higher education institutions franchising to a further education college has remained fairly constant since 2006-07, while the number of students franchised from a higher education institution to a further education college has increased between 2006-07 and 2009-10.

Students franchised from HEIs to FECs

Academic year	*Number of institutions franchising to a FEC*	*Headcount of franchised students*
2006-07	63	50,140
2007-08	62	51,340
2008-09	60	54,095
2009-10	64	63,938

Source: HESES.

Higher Education: Part-time Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many part-time students are in their *(a)* first, *(b)* final and *(c)* other year of an undergraduate degree course. [318179]

Mr. Lammy: In the 2008/09 academic year there were 70,195 part-time first degree students in their first year of study and 135,000 students in any other year of study. It is not possible to accurately identify final year students as course timescales can vary, particularly for part-time students. However 36,855 part-time first degree students qualified in 2008/09. This will discount students who completed their final year, but did not qualify.

Motor Vehicles: Government Assistance

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many vehicles have been purchased under the Vehicle Scrappage Scheme to date. [318257]

Ian Lucas: By 14 February 2010, BIS had received 355,305 orders for new vehicles under the scrappage scheme.

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely effects of the Vehicle Scrappage Scheme on the volume of carbon dioxide emissions. [318258]

Ian Lucas: No detailed assessment has been made by this Department. According to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), average CO_2 emissions of a car bought through the scheme was 133.3 g/km, almost 10 per cent. below the overall new car market average and 26.8 per cent. below the average figure for a scrapped car.

Multiple Sclerosis: Research

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has allocated funding for research to examine whether there is a causal relationship between chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency and multiple sclerosis. [318255]

Mr. Lammy: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body which receives its grant-in-aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The MRC spent £3.4 million on research into Multiple Sclerosis in 2008-09, but is not currently funding any research specifically into chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency (CCSVI).

The MRC always welcomes high quality applications for support into any aspect of human health. The primary considerations in funding decisions are research excellence and importance to health; however, high quality proposals in areas of particular strategic importance may be given priority in competition for funds.

The MRC provides opportunities for additional clinical research training fellowships through collaborations with Royal Colleges and Charity flinders including the MRC/Multiple Sclerosis Society Clinical Research Training Fellowships. One fellowship per year is available under this scheme, aimed at researchers who are involved in treating patients and who wish to pursue research into understanding and treatment of multiple sclerosis.

Details of MRC's currently funded research can be found in the MRC research portfolio which is accessible on the MRC website at:

http://www.mrc.ac.uk/ResearchPortfolio/index.htm

Retail Trade: Planning Permission

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to respond to the Competition Commission's recommendation on the introduction of a local competition test in planning regulations. [318319]

Kevin Brennan: The Government need to consider the wider implications of this recommendation alongside the Competition Commission's (CC) detailed analysis. These are complex issues. I expect to announce my response to the CC 's recommendation on introducing a competition test into the UK planning system in due course.

Science: Expenditure

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the UK's gross domestic product was spent on research and development in science in 2008-09; and what assessment he has made of likely trends in such expenditure in the next three financial years. [318146]

Mr. Lammy: The most recent data available are for 2007, when gross domestic expenditure on research and development (GERD) was 1.79 per cent. of gross domestic product.

Data for 2008 are expected to be published by the Office for National Statistics in March 2010.

The Department has made no assessment of future outturns for GERD for the period 2009-10 to 2011-12.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 26 February 2010

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment Schemes: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average cost to Jobcentre Plus is of supporting clients on *(a)* Pathways to Work, *(b)* Workstep and *(c)* New Deal for Disabled People into (i) work and (ii) sustained work defined as 26 weeks in respect of clients diagnosed with (A) mental health conditions, (B) musculoskeletal diseases and (C) visual impairment. [315047]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available.

Incapacity Benefits

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether people claiming employment and support allowance are counted for the purposes of meeting her Department's objective of reducing the national incapacity benefits caseload by one million by 2015; [317623]

(2) what recent assessment she has made of her Department's progress towards its target of reducing the national incapacity benefits caseload by one million by 2015. [317624]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government's aim is to reduce the number of people on employment and support allowance and incapacity benefits by 1 million by 2015 from a baseline of 2.74 million in 2005. Recipients of incapacity benefits include customers receiving incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance, income support (on incapacity grounds) and employment and support allowance.

We expect the further planned reforms to employment and support allowance and incapacity benefits to help us make significant progress towards our aim to reduce the numbers on employment and support allowance and incapacity benefits by 1 million.

Jobcentre Plus

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent consideration she has given to the provision of Jobcentre Plus services at locations other than Jobcentre Plus offices. [313780]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what recent consideration she has given to the provision of Jobcentre Plus services at locations other than Jobcentre Plus offices. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

With the advances made in technology the way we deliver our services has changed and our channel strategy enables us to effectively deliver many of our services either by telephone or through the internet. However, for customers in need of tailored personal support, Jobcentre Plus continues to provide a face to face advisory service through our network of Jobcentres and a wide range of outreach locations.

We aim to make our services more accessible to customers by providing a range of support through outreach. Typically, advisory services can be delivered in partnership with Children's Centres, on Local Authority premises, or in conjunction with one of our Welfare to Work providers

To ensure these arrangements meet the challenge of the current economic climate we will keep our service delivery plans under review.

I hope this information is helpful.

Public Holidays

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of the introduction of an additional public holiday; and if she will make a statement. [315112]

Jonathan Shaw: No official estimate has been made of the additional cost to the Department of an additional day's public holiday.

The actual cost would depend in particular on the degree to which work could be re-prioritised or re-scheduled as already happens, for example, at the Christmas and Easter public holidays.

TRANSPORT

Boating: Safety

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he last reviewed safety arrangements for tall ships which are used for educational purposes for young people under 21; and if he will make a statement. [318938]

Paul Clark: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) keeps the safety requirements for tall ships registered or operating in the UK under constant review. These requirements are set out in Codes of Safety published by the MCA. Tall ships registered or operating in the UK are subject to the same inspection regimes as ships of a comparable size. The agency is working with the Association of Sail Training Organisations (ASTO) on the development of an additional safety management system, designed specifically for smaller sail training ships.

Through the International Maritime Organization, the MCA is actively promoting greater co-operation between maritime administrations to develop a more consistent application of safety requirements internationally.

Departmental NDPBs

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for how many non-departmental public bodies his Department is responsible. [314260]

Chris Mole: Information on the number of non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) sponsored by my Department is published in the annual Cabinet Office report 'Public Bodies'. 'Public Bodies 2009' is available online at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/ndpbs.aspx

Departmental Public Expenditure

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which projects have been allocated funding from the *(a)* Highways Agency Network Operations budget and *(b)* Technology Innovation Fund for (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11, (iii) 2011-12, (iv) 2012-13, (v) 2013-14 and (vi) 2014-15; and how much such funding each such project has already received. [319073]

Chris Mole: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The Highways Agency was allocated £2.9 billion of programme expenditure in 2009-10 as presented in the Agency's 2009-10 Business Plan. The programme includes projects to maintain and operate the strategic road network.

There are over 3,000 which make up the programme allocation and it is not practicable to list each project. 2010-11 plans are being finalised and the following years are subject to the outcome of any future Spending Review.

(b) The Highways Agency was allocated funding for the A14 Corridor Traffic Management System and the Birmingham Box Phase 1 and 2 project from the Technology Innovation Fund for the periods 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Funding already allocated to the Highways Agency from the Technology Innovation Fund is as follows:

£ million

	2009-10 Budget	*2010-11 Indicative*
Birmingham Box Phase 1 and 2	76	32
A14 Corridor TMS	46	7

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years. [316455]

Chris Mole: Sickness absence statistics are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/staff/sickabsence

Departmental Travel

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will publish the travel guidance issued to staff of each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies. [314928]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. Agencies and NDPBs issue their own travel guidance to staff, and reference should be made to them for this information.

Liquid Explosives: EU Action

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects the EU's Liquid Explosives Working Group to agree a standard for scanning for liquid explosives. [318904]

Paul Clark: The EU's aviation security regulatory committee (composed of member state experts) agreed a new package of implementing measures on aviation security on 21 October 2009. This package of measures includes standards for liquids screening technology. The timetable for introduction of this technology is currently being considered by the European Parliament.

Official Cars: Safety

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether cars operated by the Government Car and Despatch Agency have been subject to recall in the last six months. [319172]

Paul Clark: Eleven vehicles operated by the Government Car and Despatch Agency have been subject to a recall in the last six months.

Railways: Fares

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what the annual percentage change in the cost of a Senior Railcard has been in each year since 2000; [318407]

(2) what the cost of a Senior Railcard was in each year since 2000. [318408]

Chris Mole: The cost and percentage increase of a Senior Railcard in each year since 2000 was as follows:

	Price (£)	*Percentage increase*	*Date of increase*
2000	18.00	0	—
2001	18.00	0	—
2002	18.00	0	—
2003	18.00	0	—
2004	20.00	11.11	23 May 2004
2005	20.00	0	—
2006	20.00	0	—
2007	20.00	0	—
2008	24.00	20.00	2 January 2008
2009	26.00	8.33	17 May 2009
2010	26.00	0	—

These are in line with the terms of the Senior Railcard scheme agreement through which train operators are required to provide the cards.

Rescue Services: Hope Cove

Mr. Steen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will extend the coverage area of the Hope Cove lifeboat up to and including Ordnance Survey points *(a)* 695373 to the east and *(b)* 605465 to the west. [318209]

Paul Clark: There are no plans to extend the coverage of the general purpose boat operated by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) at Hope Cove. The operating limits are set in the interests of the safety of the boat's volunteer crew and the public.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will make it his policy not to override local authority contracts for the supply of salt and grit. [318905]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport only provides advice to salt suppliers on prioritising deliveries to ensure salt is delivered to where it is needed most. Advice is provided by the Salt Cell, comprising officials from the Department for Transport, the Devolved Administrations, the Highways Agency and local authority representatives. The Salt Cell has remained in operation since 6 January and its advice has been extremely important in ensuring that no authorities have so far run out of salt despite the worst winter weather in 30 years. The Salt Cell's advice is based upon information provided by highway authorities on their stock levels and weather forecasts. It is a matter for the salt suppliers to decide what deliveries they make.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the preparedness of local authorities for the recent severe weather conditions including the provision of salt and grit in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England. [318907]

Mr. Khan: Following the severe weather conditions in February 2009, the Government asked the UK Roads Liaison Group to identify the lessons that should be learnt regarding highway authorities' preparedness for extreme weather events. The UK Roads Liaison Group made 19 recommendations, one of which advised that:

> "in considering appropriate service standards, at least six days resilience would represent sensible good practice for determining the number of days resilience during the core winter period".

It is for each authority to consider the recommendations and decide for themselves how best to take them forward. However, a write-round in late October 2009 by regional resilience teams (RRTs) in the Government Offices found that of those local authorities that responded (a third of local highway authorities) all but one were holding at least six days' supply, and more than half of those responding arranged to hold 10 days' supply or more. Northamptonshire county council reported that it had reviewed the UKRLG's recommendations and that it held 11,000 tonnes at that time.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Sea Change Programme

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport who *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received funding through his Department's Sea Change programme in each year since its inception. [318594]

Margaret Hodge: The local authorities who applied for and received funding through the Sea Change programme since it began in April 2008 are shown in the tables. A total of £38 million has been allocated over the three phrases of the programme.

Wave One (2008-09)

Applied for funding and allocated a Sea Change grant

Local authority	*Resort*
Blackpool Council	Blackpool
Torbay Council	Torbay
Kent County Council	Dover
Berwick-upon-Tweed	Berwick
Devon County Council	Teignmouth
Rother District Council	Bexhill-on-Sea
Bournemouth Borough Council	Boscombe
North Somerset Council	Weston-Super-Mare
Arun District Council	Littlehampton
Torridge DC	Westward Ho!
Wyre BC	Fleetwood
North Devon Council	Ilfracombe
North Tyneside Council	North Tyneside
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Withernsea
Thanet District Council	Margate

Applied for funding and not allocated a grant

Local authority	*Resort*
West Dorset District Council	West Bay
Sedgemoor District Council	Burnham-on-Sea
Penwith District Council	St Ives
South Holland District Council	Sutton Bridge
Shepway District Council	Folkestone
Worthing Borough Council	Worthing
Tendring District Council	Walton-on-the-Naze
Brighton and Hove City Council	Brighton
Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council	Southport
West Somerset Council	Minehead
Plymouth City Council	Plymouth

Wave Two 2009-10

Applied for funding and allocated a Sea Change grant

Local authority	*Resort*
East Riding of Yorkshire	Bridlington
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	Great Yarmouth
Hastings Borough Council	Hastings
Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council	Southport
Wansbeck District Council	Newbiggin
Worthing Borough Council	Worthing
South Tyneside Council	South Shields
Essex County Council	Jaywick
Swale Borough Council	Leysdown
Penwith District Council	Penzance
Teignbridge District Council	Dawlish
North Norfolk District Council	Wells
Kent County Council	Whitstable/Margate

Applied for funding and not allocated a grant

Local authority	*Resort*
Weymouth and Portland Borough Council	Weymouth
Tendring District Council	Dovercourt
Scarborough Borough Council	Filey
Portsmouth City Council	Portsmouth
Sunderland City Council	Sunderland
Fylde Borough Council	St. Anne's
Carrick District Council	Falmouth
Hartlepool Borough Council	Seaton Sands

Wave Three 2010-11

Applied for funding and allocated a Sea Change grant

Local authority	*Resort*
Thanet District Council	Margate
North Tyneside Council	Tynemouth

Applied for funding and allocated a Sea Change grant

Local authority	*Resort*
Sunderland City Council	Roker
Barrow Borough Council	Piel Island
Wyre Borough Council	Fleetwood
Cornwall County Council	St. Ives
Plymouth City Council	Plymouth

Applied for funding and not allocated a grant

Local authority	*Resort*
Lancaster City Council	Morecambe
Southend	Southend
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapel St. Leonards
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk borough council	Hunstanton
East Lindsey Borough Council	Skegness
Lincolnshire County Council	Skegness
North East Lincolnshire Council	Cleethorpes
South Holland District Council	Sutton Bridge
Hartlepool Borough Council	Seaton Carew
Northumberland County Council	Blyth
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	Redcar
Blackpool Council	Blackpool
Cumbria County Council	Siloth Green
Lancaster City Council	Morecambe
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council	Old Hoylake
Chichester District Council	Selsey
East Sussex County Council	Newhaven
Havant Borough Council	Hayling Island
Kent County Council	East Kent Trail
Portsmouth City Council	Southsea
Shepway District Council	Folkestone
Thanet District Council	Margate
Devon County Council	Exmouth
East Devon District Council	Seaton
North Devon Council	Ilfracombe
Poole Borough Council	Poole
Teignbridge District Council	Teignmouth
West Dorset District Council	Lyme Regis
West Somerset Council	Minehead
Weymouth and Portland District Council	Weymouth
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Hornsea

St. George's Day

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to mark St. George's Day. [318952]

Margaret Hodge: On 23 April the Department for Culture, Media and Sport will fly the St. George's flag alongside the Union flag to celebrate St. George's Day. English Heritage plans to mark the day with events at several properties around the country, the biggest of which will be a two-day St. George's Day festival at Wrest Park in Bedfordshire.

Theatre: Young People

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people have registered for Arts Council England's A Night Less Ordinary scheme. [317147]

Margaret Hodge: Central registration with Arts Council England is not required.

PRIME MINISTER

National Security Committee

Keith Vaz: To ask the Prime Minister what the membership is of the National Security Committee; how many times the Committee has met in the last 12 months; and what its remit is. [313546]

The Prime Minister: The Ministerial Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development exists to consider issues relating to national security and the Government's international, European and international development policies. Its membership is taken from relevant Ministers. The attendance of officials at ministerial committees is at the discretion of the chair of the committee. At NSID the Chief of the Defence Staff, the Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee and the heads of the intelligence agencies have a standing invitation to attend meetings.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Religious Buildings: Repairs and Maintenance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what recent representations the Church Commissioners have received on the effects of the scheme which rebates value added tax payable on repairs for listed places of worship. [318596]

Sir Stuart Bell: On 11 February the General Synod made a clear statement that this extremely welcome scheme, which had by the end of January 2010 paid out over £101 million across the UK but is due to end on 31 March 2011, should be extended.

As no provision has been agreed within the EU to allow for the reduction of VAT for repairs to listed places of worship, the Church is campaigning, in partnership with other denominations and faiths, to persuade the Government to ensure the continuation of this scheme. The scheme makes a huge difference to our parish churches which are currently spending over £110 million on repairs and we are pleased that the hon. Lady and other hon. Members are actively involving themselves in this campaign and helping us to maintain a major part of the nation's built heritage for future generations.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Pay

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on household staff for members of the armed forces with a rank of Brigadier or equivalent and above in each of the last 12 months. [316372]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is not held centrally.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the travel guidelines issued to staff of each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies. [315150]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Statement of Civilian Personnel Policy on Civilian Detached Duty Expenses has been placed in the Library of the House.

Copies of the guidance in respect of the Department's Trading Funds UK Hydrographic Office, Met Office and Defence Science and Technology Laboratory have been placed in the Library of the House. The Defence Support Group is currently in the process of harmonising the existing travel guidelines of its air and land businesses and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House when the revised guidelines are complete.

The Department's non-departmental public bodies have charitable status and are independent of the Secretary of State for Defence in relation to travel guidance. Advisory non-departmental public bodies have no staff.

Future Large Aircraft

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department has provided to the A400M aircraft project under each budgetary heading; and for what purposes. [319175]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The cost so far to the Department of the A400M programme has been £843 million from the Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit and £5 million from the Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit. This money has been spent on aircraft development and production activities.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to respond to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 24 November 2009 on his Department's bonus scheme. [319248]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The hon. Member's e-mail was not sent to the correct address. It has now been resent and a response will be provided shortly.

Met Office: Pay

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been paid in bonuses to staff employed at the Met Office in each of the last five years. [318171]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Met Office staff are eligible to receive performance-related pay based on achievements against specific targets agreed and monitored by the Met Office Board, which are linked to the success of the Met Office at either individual, team or organisational level. Payments are non-consolidated and represent part of Met Office staff remuneration which is at risk and needs to be re-earned each year.

The following table details the amount paid in performance related pay to staff employed at the Met Office in each of the last five years.

£

	Total paid in non-consolidated, performance related awards	*Average award*
2008-09	2,720,000	1,485
2007-08	2,734,000	1,545
2006-07	2,491,000	1,458
2005-06	2,642,000	1,499
2004-05	1,742,000	968

RAF Fylingdales

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* reports, *(c)* de-arrests and *(d)* charges have been made under the RAF Fylingdales Military Land Byelaws since 1990. [318620]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is detailed in the following table:

	Arrests	*Reports*	*De-arrests*	*Charges*
1990	4	0	0	0
1991	5	1	0	1
1992	0	0	0	0
1993	0	0	0	0
1994	1	1	0	1
1995	0	0	0	0
1996	0	0	0	0
1997	0	0	0	0
1998	0	0	0	0
1999	0	0	0	0
2000	11	8	3	0

There is no record of the Military Land Byelaws at RAF Fylingdales being used by the Ministry of Defence Police after 2000. For the purposes of this response the term 'reports' has been interpreted as files that were submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service for advice.

United Kingdom Hydrographic Office

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to privatise the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office. [318903]

Mr. Kevan Jones: We have no plans to privatise the UK Hydrographic Office.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Development: Expenditure

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been granted under Connecting Communities in each *(a)* local authority and *(b)* lower super output area in each year since 2000. [318216]

Mr. Malik: The Connecting Communities programme was launched on 14 October 2009. A table providing information on the grant funding allocated to each area to support their proposals for participating in the Connecting Communities programme has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Fire Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable has been set for the first full year's data to be collected from fire authorities under the new Incident Recording System. [319305]

Mr. Malik: Fire and rescue authorities have been asked to provide incident record data for the first full year under the new Incident Record System by the end of May 2010. This is in order to produce the provisional national statistics which are published in the Fire Statistics Monitor Publication series at:

www.communities.gov.uk/fire/researchandstatistics/firestatistics/firestatisticsmonitors/

Fire Services: Equipment

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2083-4W, on fire services: equipment, what the equivalent information is for 2008-09. [318423]

Mr. Malik *[holding answer 24 February 2010]*: The number of front-line pumping appliances in each fire and rescue service in England during 2008-09 is shown in the table.

The numbers of defibrillators in each Fire and Rescue Service in 2007 as provided in the answer of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2083-4W, on fire services: equipment were data collected as a one-off for the following piece of research: Current Practice and Prospects for Fire and Rescue Service Co-responding, 14/2008:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/frscoresponding

Information on the number of defibrillators in Fire and Rescue Services is not collected routinely and therefore data for 2008-09 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fire and rescue service	*Front line pumping appliances*
Avon	37
Bedfordshire and Luton	22
Buckinghamshire	31
Cambridgeshire	38
Cheshire	35
Cleveland	22
Cornwall	43
County Durham and Darlington	27
Cumbria	50
Derbyshire	44
Devon and Somerset	121
Dorset	40
East Sussex	35
Essex	71
Gloucestershire	33
Greater Manchester	66
Hampshire	76
Hereford and Worcester	43
Hertfordshire	41
Humberside	49
Isle of Wight	16
Isles of Scilly	3
Kent	86
Lancashire	60
Leicestershire	31
Lincolnshire	48
London	168
Merseyside	42
Norfolk	54
North Yorkshire	47
Northamptonshire	28
Northumberland	24
Nottinghamshire	36
Oxfordshire	35
Royal Berkshire	22
Shropshire	28
South Yorkshire	32
Staffordshire	44
Suffolk	38
Surrey	35
Tyne and Wear	31
Warwickshire	26
West Midlands	61
West Sussex	46
West Yorkshire	62
Wiltshire	35
England	2,062

Fires: Domestic Waste

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1654W, on fires: domestic waste, what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* timetable is for the research into fires in wheeled refuse containers. [319324]

Mr. Malik: The 2010-11 research programme is being drawn up at this time. We anticipate that draft research programmes will be considered by Ministers and we expect the outcomes of that process will be available in spring 2010.

Local Enterprise Growth Initiative

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the effect on local economies of the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative. [319278]

Ms Rosie Winterton: An independent national evaluation of the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) has been commissioned by Communities and Local Government which will measure and assess the outcomes and impacts of the programme; assess the strategic and operational fit of the fund within the wider policy environment; and identify innovation and good practice and work carried out by the LEGI partnerships.

The final report is scheduled to be published in summer this year.

Planning Permission: Appeals

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether submissions from developers to planning appeals may be *(a)* received and *(b)* taken account of after the closing date for such submissions; and if he will make a statement. [319251]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Secretary of State is able to use his discretion in determining whether to consider representations received after the close of an inquiry.

The late submission of appeal material can cause delays and late representations and evidence are therefore only accepted in exceptional circumstances.

Planning Permission: Innsworth

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with the Planning Inspectorate on the timing of submissions made by developers in respect of proposals to build houses at Innsworth, Gloucestershire, GL3 1EB. [319252]

Mr. Ian Austin: None.

Public Sector

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the interim pilot reports published as part of the Total Place initiative. [317804]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Many of the pilots have now made their interim reports public, by either publishing them on the Total Place website or their own websites. The decision on whether to publish the interim reports was entirely a matter for the pilots.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to include the provision of reserves of salt and grit as part of the audit requirements of local authorities. [318906]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has no plans for such proposals.

Standards Board for England: Procurement

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the names and addresses are of each organisation that supplied goods or services to the *(a)* Standards Board for England and *(b)* Homes and Communities Agency in 2008-09. [317573]

John Healey: A list for both bodies has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when he plans to answer Question 314663, on households in temporary accommodation, tabled on 27 January 2010; [319588]

(2) when he plans to answer Question 314661, on households classified as intentionally homeless, tabled on 27 January 2010; [319589]

(3) when he plans to answer Question 314660, on emergency accommodation, tabled on 27 January 2010; [319590]

(4) when he plans to answer Question 314658, on emergency accommodation, tabled on 27 January 2010; [319591]

(5) when he plans to answer Question 314657, on services for intentionally homeless households, tabled on 27 January 2010. [319592]

Mr. Ian Austin: I replied to the hon. Member's questions on 24 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 613-14W

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Overseas Territories

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the name is of the *(a)* Governor and *(b)* Assistant Governor of each overseas territory. [319171]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The names of the Governors and Deputy Governor, or equivalents, in each of the UK's Overseas Territories are as follows:

Anguilla

Governor—Mr. Alistair Harrison

Deputy Governor—Mr. Stanley Reid

Bermuda

Governor—Sir Richard Gozney

Deputy Governor—Mr. David Arkley

British Virgin Islands

Governor—Mr. David Pearey

Deputy Governor—Ms Vivian Inez Archibald

Cayman Islands

Governor—Mr. Duncan Taylor

Deputy Governor—Mr. Donovan Ebanks

Falkland Islands

Governor—Mr. Alan Huckle. Mr Huckle is also Commissioner for South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

Deputy Governor—There is no such position. Mr. Paul Martinez is the First Secretary in the Governor's Office and has acted as Governor during periods of substantive absence by the Governor.

Gibraltar

Governor—Sir Adrian Johns

Deputy Governor—Ms Lesley Pallett

Montserrat

Governor—Mr. Peter Waterworth

Deputy Governor—Mrs. Sarita Francis

Pitcairn

Governor—Mr. George Fergusson

Deputy Governor—Ms Ginny Silva

St. Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha

Governor—Mr Andrew Gurr

Deputy Governor—There is no such position. The Chief Secretary, Mr. Andrew Wells, has acted as Governor of St. Helena in the Governor's absence.

Ascension Island Administrator—Mr. Ross Denny.

Tristan da Cunha Administrator—Mr. David Morley.

Turks and Caicos Islands

Governor—Mr. Gordon Wetherell

Deputy Governor—Vacant

British Antarctic Territory and British Indian Ocean Territory

The Commissioner for the British Antarctic Territory and British Indian Ocean Territory is Mr. Colin Roberts.

Croatia: EU Accession

Mr. Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East of 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 565W, on Croatia: EC enlargement, what assessment he has made of the effect of the election of Ivo Josipovic as President of Croatia on that country's progress in its EU accession negotiations, with particular reference to efforts towards reform in the areas of judiciary and fundamental rights. [318609]

Chris Bryant: President Josipovic was elected for a five-year term on 11 January 2010. His election campaign focussed on tackling corruption, support for European norms and the rule of law.

In his inauguration speech as Head of State he set out the following vision:

> "It was with a vision of a European, prosperous Croatia that I embarked on the electoral process. My key motivation was that of justice, the moral and legal foundation of a better society. We have established a state, but justice and fairness are the values yet to be materialized in their full scope."

I am confident that President Josipovic will encourage the Government of Croatia to continue vigorous efforts to meet the criteria for EU accession, particularly in the areas of tackling corruption and strengthening the judiciary and respect for fundamental rights.

Diplomatic Service: Manpower

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the effects on levels of service of the withdrawal of management officers in the UK missions and their replacement with locally-engaged staff in *(a)* Iran, *(b)* Iraq, *(c)* Nigeria, *(d)* Russia and *(e)* China; and if he will make a statement. [318450]

Chris Bryant: Our missions will continue to provide appropriate levels of service for our staff whether supported by UK or locally-based staff. In Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, Russia and China, there will still be senior UK-based management staff.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office tries to work very much as a single team, offering full responsibility and accountability to local as well as UK-based staff in accordance with their roles. We are privileged to attract a high calibre of local staff who deliver an excellent level of service including in the area of corporate services work.

Dubai: Interpol

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his counterpart in Dubai on Interpol's request concerning named suspects in a murder investigation believed to be using details from British passports; and if he will make a statement. [318684]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 25 February 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to my hon. Friend the Minister for Europe's answer to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 22-23, namely that on 21 February 2010 my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to Abdullah bin Zayed, the Emirati Foreign Minister.

Embassies: Closures

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to close any overseas posts during 2010-11. [318034]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* The Government are committed to a world-class and comprehensive diplomatic service that is a credit to the UK and reflects demands for our services and the Government's priorities. I am confident that we will continue to be able both to fulfil our historic responsibilities and to pursue our modern priorities.

Falun Gong

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Falun Gong movement in the UK. [318462]

Chris Bryant: UK representatives of the Falun Gong movement were invited to meetings with non-governmental organisations, held by my predecessor the hon. Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell), as part of a wider discussion on Human Rights in China.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials regularly meet with the UK representatives of the Falun Gong movement. Also at the end of last year they met with international Falun Gong researchers.

We have serious concerns about the mistreatment of Falun Gong adherents and regularly raise this issue with the Chinese Government. We did so most recently at the UK/China Human Rights Dialogue, which was held in London in January 2009. We asked how many re-education through labour detainees there were and what proportion were Falun Gong. The Chinese responded saying that reforms of the system of re-education through labour were taking place. We will raise this issue again at the next available opportunity.

War Crimes: Arrest Warrants

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to submit his response to the request from the UN Secretary-General under paragraph 1 of UN General Assembly Resolution 64/117 for information and observations on the scope and application of the principle of universal urisdiction, including information on judicial practice; whether that response will include details of the arrest warrant procedure in the UK; and if he will publish the response. [317364]

Chris Bryant: The UK intends to respond to the UN Secretary-General's request before his deadline of 30 April. The content of our reply, including the question of whether or not to include details of the arrest warrant procedure, is currently under consideration. The Government will lay a copy of the response in the Library of the House at the earliest opportunity.

JUSTICE

Arrest Warrants

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions statute law provisions relating to domestic arrest warrants have been amended in the last 30 years; and if he will make a statement. [317729]

Claire Ward: The statutory provision governing the issue of domestic arrest warrants is section 1 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, which in the 30 years since it was passed has been amended by three enactments—the Criminal Justice Act 1991, the Courts Act 2003 and the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were convicted of racist offences in *(a)* London, *(b)* each police force area and *(c)* England and Wales in each year since 1998; [317609]

(2) how many people have been convicted for causing *(a)* death and *(b)* injury by dangerous driving in England and Wales, in each year since 1998; and how many of these offences involved (i) alcohol and (ii) drug or substance abuse; [317656]

(3) how many people have been convicted for using firearms or imitation firearms with intent to resist arrest in England and Wales in each year since 1998; [317658]

(4) how many people have been convicted for *(a)* kidnapping, *(b)* child abduction and *(c)* false imprisonment in England and Wales in each year since 1998; [317659]

(5) how many people have been convicted for offences related to absconding from legal custody in each year since 1998; [317761]

(6) how many people were convicted of offences related to hijacking commercial lorries and tankers in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years; [317774]

(7) how many people have been convicted for offences of obstructing *(a)* police and *(b)* fire services in England and Wales in each year since 1998. [317775]

Claire Ward: The available information, up to 2008 (latest available), is shown in tables 1 to 6 which have been placed in the Library of the House.

The Court Proceedings Database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. These data include information on the offence and statute for the offence. The Court Proceedings Database does not hold specific information on offences beyond descriptions provided by the statutes under which prosecutions are brought nor the circumstances of each case.

There is no specific statute of 'hijacking commercial lorries and tankers'. Defendants may be proceeded against for offences of theft or conspiracy to steal, etc. Centrally available motoring offences data do not separately identify commercial lorries and tankers from other types of motor vehicle. Data for 2009 are planned for publication in autumn, 2010.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the executive agencies for which he is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in (i) his Department and (ii) the executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [317894]

Mr. Wills: The requirement to make a declaration about disability is voluntary and significant numbers of staff have chosen not to make a disclosure. Overall, within the Ministry of Justice (excluding the National Offender Management Services (NOMS)) 73 per cent. have completed a declaration. Among full-time staff 58 per cent. have completed a declaration form, with 3.9 per cent. recording that they have a disability. Among part-time staff 3.5 per cent. declared a disability.

For NOMS, 55 per cent. of directly employed staff have completed a declaration, with 6 per cent. recording that they have a disability. Among full-time staff 55 per cent. completed a declaration, of whom 6 per cent. declared a disability and among part-time staff 58 per cent. completed a declaration and 6 per cent. of those declared a disability.

2 per cent. of senior civil servants (SCS) employed within the Ministry have declared a disability. As the actual number of SCS staff involved is less than 10, any disclosure of their working patterns and average salaries may lead to individual identification.

For staff employed in grades below the SCS, insufficient numbers of employees have made any declaration of their status in relation to disability to enable the Ministry to determine, with any accuracy, average salary information.

However, during 2008-09 (the latest figures available) the average salary for full-time staff employed in the Ministry of Justice (excluding National Offender Management Services (NOMS)) was £23,986 and the average full-time equivalent (FTE) salary for part-time staff for 2008-09 was £20,717. For staff employed within NOMS, at 31 January 2010 the average full-time salary was £24,876 and the average FTE salary for part-time staff was £23,986.

Both the Ministry of Justice and NOMS encourages staff to declare relevant information to assist with diversity monitoring.

Drug Offences

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children were *(a)* arrested, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* imprisoned for (i) all drugs offences and (ii) Class A drugs offences in each of the last five years. [317770]

Claire Ward: The arrests collection is held by the Home Office and covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

Information provided by the Home Office on 10 to 17-year-olds arrested for drug offences covering 2003-04 to 2007-08 (latest available) is provided in Table 1. It is not possible to separately identify arrests for Class A drugs from the information on arrests for drug offences reported to the Home Office.

Data on arrests for 2008-09 are scheduled to be published on 15 April 2010.

The number of persons aged 10 to 17 years proceeded against at magistrates courts for all drugs offences and Class A drugs offences, and those receiving a sentence of immediate custody at all courts, England and Wales, 2004 to 2008 (latest available) is given in Table 2. Court proceedings data are published on a calendar year basis.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication in the autumn 2010.

Table 1: Number of persons aged 10 to 17 arrested for drug offences, England and Wales 2003-04 to 2007-08[1]

	Number of arrests for drug offences
2003-04	18,100
2004-05	14,600
2005-06	14,400
2006-07	12,800
2007-08	15,018

[1] Figures for 2006-07 onwards are unrounded, previous years rounded.
Source:
Home Office Statistics.

Table 2: The number of defendants aged 10 to 17 proceeded against at magistrates courts and sentenced to immediate custody at all courts for all drugs offences and Class A drugs offences, England and Wales, 2004-08[1, 2, 3]

	Defendants									
	Proceeded against					*Immediate custody*				
Offence	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
All drugs offences	5,125	5,214	4,977	5,855	6,928	181	200	214	214	284
Of which:										
Class A drugs offences	850	875	897	1,067	1,064	133	160	168	170	225

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Drugs: Convictions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of a drug trafficking offence *(a)* as a result of an investigation by the Serious Organised Crime Agency and *(b)* in total in each year since 1998. [314751]

Alan Johnson: I have been asked to reply.

The number of defendants found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for drug trafficking offences, from 1998 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the table. Court proceedings statistical data held by the Ministry of Justice do not include the circumstances of each case and therefore cannot identify any investigating agency.

The Serious Organised Crime Agency was set up to reduce the harm to the UK caused by serious organised crime. Criminal prosecution is only one of a number of tools SOCA uses. With its partners, SOCA undertakes a range of activities against drug trafficking, including work to secure criminal convictions. SOCA is not able to say how many people have been convicted of a specific drug trafficking offence since its inception. However, SOCA records show that the following number of people have been convicted as a result of operations countering drug trafficking.

Convictions for drug trafficking

	UK	*Overseas*
2006-07	215	20
2007-08	199	24
2008-09	197	20

The number of defendants found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for drug trafficking offences1, from 1998 to 20082,[3]

Offence description	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[4]
Unlawful importation of a drug controlled under misuse of Drugs Act 1971	1,190	1,171	1,165	1,648	1,599	1,063	975	1,026	835	783	745

The number of defendants found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for drug trafficking offences[1], from 1998 to 2008[2,3]

Offence description	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[4]
Unlawful exportation of a drug controlled under misuse of Drugs Act 1971	59	25	40	30	21	18	37	35	35	36	31
Production of or being concerned in the production of a controlled drug.	1,779	1,477	1,175	952	1,114	1,657	1,379	1,360	1,480	2,120	2,627
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply.	5,549	5,069	4,607	4,405	4,452	4,834	4,887	5,097	5,062	5,499	6,443
Supplying or offering to supply (or being concerned in supplying or offering to supply) a controlled drug.	3,819	3,717	3,341	3,214	3,300	3,461	3,619	3,707	3,499	3,507	3,940
Having a controlled drug in possession on a ship; Being knowingly concerned in the carrying or concealing of a controlled drug on a ship.	16	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	—
Concealing or transferring the proceeds of drug trafficking; Assisting another person to retain the benefit of drug trafficking; Acquisition, possession or use of proceeds of drug trafficking	16	30	26	42	38	49	27	20	6	7	6
Total	12,428	11,490	10,355	10,297	10,525	11,083	10,925	11,246	10,918	11,953	13,792

[1] Includes offences under statutes: Customs and Excise Management Act 1979; Misuse of Drugs Act 1971; Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994; Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Act 1990; Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes Convictions for Cardiff magistrates' court for April, July and August 2008

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 84W, on drugs: crime, how many people were convicted of offences of drug *(a)* possession and *(b)* dealing in Avon and Somerset police force area in 2008. [318390]

Claire Ward: Pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2009, the number of persons found guilty at all courts for drug possession and dealing in the Avon and Somerset police force area in 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table:

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for the possession and dealing of drugs, Avon and Somerset police force area 2008[1,2,3]

Offence	*2008*
Having possession of a controlled drug	707
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply	154
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug	64

Notes:

1. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
3. Excludes convictions data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice.

Drugs: Fine

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2010, *Official Report,* columns 490-3W, on drugs: fines, what the number of people fined for *(a)* possession and *(b)* possession with intent to supply was as a proportion of all those convicted of both offences in each year for which the data are provided. [317569]

Claire Ward: The requested information is shown in the following tables.

Number of persons fined and total sentenced, at all courts, for having possession of a controlled drug by drug type and year, 1998 to 2008

England and Wales

Drug type and year	*Number of persons fined*	*Total sentenced*	*Fine rate (percentage)*
Cannabis			
1998	15,503	22,616	68.5
1999	15,215	22,672	67.1
2000	13,638	20,799	65.6
2001	12,960	20,736	62.5
2002	14,123	23,627	59.8
2003	15,172	25,665	59.1
2004	6,972	13,302	52.4
2005	6,316	12,050	52.4
2006	6,368	12,452	51.1
2007	6,839	14,004	48.8
2008	8,694	17,831	48.8
Cocaine			
1998	1,003	1,642	61.1
1999	1,243	2,035	61.1
2000	1,117	1,884	59.3
2001	1,107	1,977	56.0
2002	1,332	2,233	59.7
2003	1,411	2,455	57.5
2004	1,516	2,737	55.4
2005	1,731	3,161	54.8
2006	2,055	3,981	51.6
2007	2,307	4,882	47.3
2008	2,839	5,825	48.7
Crack Cocaine			
1998	192	361	53.2
1999	246	483	50.9
2000	265	506	52.4
2001	281	626	44.9
2002	394	786	50.1
2003	381	862	44.2
2004	328	846	38.8
2005	386	921	41.9
2006	392	973	40.3
2007	409	1,211	33.8
2008	572	1,549	36.9

Number of persons fined and total sentenced, at all courts, for having possession of a controlled drug by drug type and year, 1998 to 2008

England and Wales

Drug type and year	*Number of persons fined*	*Total sentenced*	*Fine rate (percentage)*
Ecstasy (MDMA)			
1998	408	743	54.9
1999	681	1,253	54.3
2000	1,038	2,002	51.8
2001	1,201	2,485	48.3
2002	1,078	2,170	49.7
2003	1,023	2,001	51.1
2004	840	1,849	45.4
2005	761	1,672	45.5
2006	672	1,524	44.1
2007	618	1,571	39.3
2008	404	974	41.5
Heroin			
1998	1,505	4,311	34.9
1999	1,660	4,836	34.3
2000	1,715	5,143	33.3
2001	1,856	5,436	34.1
2002	1,758	5,040	34.9
2003	1,541	4,563	33.8
2004	1,405	4,258	33.0
2005	1,230	3,942	31.2
2006	1,159	3,939	29.4
2007	1,335	4,628	28.8
2008	1,478	4,870	30.3

Notes:

1. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
3. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Number of persons fined and total sentenced, at all courts, for having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply by drug type and year, 1998 to 2008

England and Wales

Drug type and year	*Number of persons fined*	*Total sentenced*	*Percentage of persons given fines*
Cannabis			
1998	244	2,713	9.0
1999	197	2,316	8.5
2000	163	1,872	8.7
2001	100	1,401	7.1

Number of persons fined and total sentenced, at all courts, for having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply by drug type and year, 1998 to 2008

England and Wales

Drug type and year	*Number of persons fined*	*Total sentenced*	*Percentage of persons given fines*
2002	103	1,383	7.4
2003	111	1,462	7.6
2004	79	1,210	6.5
2005	62	950	6.5
2006	29	884	3.3
2007	32	910	3.4
2008	48	1,142	6.3
Cocaine			
1998	9	332	2.7
1999	8	345	2.3
2000	10	350	2.9
2001	9	444	2.0
2002	13	538	2.4
2003	19	682	2.8
2004	14	796	1.8
2005	14	930	1.5
2006	9	986	0.9
2007	19	1,165	1.6
2008	11	1,530	0.7
Crack Cocaine			
1998	3	85	3.5
1999	2	72	2.8
2000	1	90	1.1
2001	5	118	4.2
2002	2	161	1.2
2003	2	235	0.9
2004	3	232	1.3
2005	7	303	2.3
2006	3	298	1.0
2007	3	364	0.8
2008	0	451	0.0
Ecstasy (MDMA)			
1998	11	291	3.8
1999	16	454	3.5
2000	20	736	2.7
2001	20	982	2.0
2002	22	843	2.6
2003	24	743	3.2
2004	10	603	1.7
2005	8	551	1.5
2006	10	419	2.4
2007	7	509	1.4
2008	0	348	0.0
Heroin			
1998	13	830	1.6
1999	18	912	2.0
2000	8	943	0.8
2001	24	1,023	2.3
2002	9	945	1.0
2003	12	1,121	1.1
2004	3	1,145	0.3
2005	5	1,118	0.4
2006	8	1,101	0.7
2007	6	1,138	0.5
2008	3	1,331	0.2

Notes:
1. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
3. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 493W, on drugs: rehabilitation, what proportion of offenders issued with a drug rehabilitation requirement or drug treatment and testing order completed a drug treatment programme in each of the last five years. [317834]

Claire Ward: The drug treatment and testing order (DTTO) and drug rehabilitation requirement (DRR) completion rate for each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

The proportion of offenders successfully completing DTTOs and DRRs has risen significantly from 28 per cent. in 2003 to 47 per cent. in 2008-09. This is encouraging because we know from research that offenders who complete orders have significantly lower reconviction rates (53 per cent.) than those that do not (91 per cent.)[1], although it is not possible to attribute this difference entirely to the programme.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Drug treatment and testing order (DTTO)/drug rehabilitation requirement (DRR) completion rate

	Percentage
2004-05	36
2005-06	40
2006-07	44
2007-08	43
2008-09	47

[1] Hough, M., Clancy, A., McSweeney, T. and Turnbull, P.J. (2003) 'The Impact of Drug Treatment and Testing Orders on offending: two year reconviction results'. Home Office Research Findings No. 184. London: Home Office.

Family Conciliation Services

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* highest, *(b)* lowest and *(c)* average cost was to the public purse of a child contact case heard in the last five years. [318042]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice incurs costs in cases involving child contact issues in respect of legal aid and the administration of the courts.

Table 1 shows the highest, lowest and average legal aid cost in cases involving child contact for each of the last five years. These cases may include other issues, such as residence, as well as contact. The figures show the gross legal costs paid, and do not deduct any amounts recovered through contributions by the assisted party or otherwise.

The figures in table 2 show the average court cost for private law Children Act cases heard in the family proceedings courts and county courts for the four years since 2005-06. The costs shown are gross and do not deduct income from court fees.

It is not possible to disaggregate court costs in a way that would allow them to be attributed to individual cases. Therefore, figures for the highest and lowest case cost cannot be provided.

Table 1

£

	Highest cost	*Lowest cost*	*Average cost*
2004-05	122,360	10	2,532
2005-06	184,735	10	2,769
2006-07	140,985	14	3,229
2007-08	188,236	11	3,437
2008-09	232,508	10	3,176

Table 2

£

	Average costs	
	Family proceedings court	*County court*
2005-06	[1]893	[1]1,126
2006-07	[2]1,183	[1]1,259
2007-08	[2]1,346	[1]1,212
2008-09	[2]1,941	[1]1,092

[1] All private law Children Act cases including, contact, residence, parental responsibility and financial provision.

[2] Contact and residence only.

Firearms: Convictions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 498W, on firearms convictions, how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) 10 and under, (ii) between 10 and 16, (iii) between 17 and 18 and (iv) over 18 years were convicted of possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition in each year since 1998. [317919]

Claire Ward: Pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 498W, the number of persons found guilty at all courts for selected firearms related offences, by age group from 1998 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

The age of criminal responsibility in England and Wales is 10 years of age.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication in the autumn, 2010.

Table 1: The number of persons found guilty at all courts for selected firearms related offences, by age group, England and Wales, from 1998 to 2008[1, 2] *Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition—Firearms Act 1968*

	1998	*1999*	*2000*[3]	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[4]
Males											
Age 10-16	19	21	22	29	41	32	27	14	6	9	9
Age 17-18	71	49	53	75	62	54	69	42	27	20	44
Age 19 and over	862	668	606	599	638	730	586	286	229	219	296
All Ages	952	738	681	703	741	816	682	342	262	248	349
Females											
Age 10-16	3	1	1	—	—	5	2	1	—	1	1
Age 17-18	6	3	—	—	7	4	3	—	—	1	1
Age 19 and over	83	70	51	54	47	74	42	10	13	14	10
All Ages	92	74	52	54	54	83	47	11	13	16	12
Persons											
Age 10-16	22	22	23	29	41	37	29	15	6	10	10
Age 17-18	77	52	53	75	69	58	72	42	27	21	45
Age 19 and over	945	738	657	653	685	804	628	296	242	233	306
All Ages	1,044	812	733	757	795	899	729	353	275	264	361

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.

However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

[4] Excludes convictions data for Cardiff magistrates' court for April, July, and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Hackney

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Hackney North and Stoke Newington constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997. [318374]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice's work spans criminal, civil and family justice, democracy, rights and the constitution. Every year around nine million people use our services in 900 locations across the United Kingdom, including 650 courts and tribunals and 139 prisons in England and Wales.

The range of the Department's policies and actions is wide and the statistical information relating to it is not normally collected on a constituency basis. Consequently, some of the information requested in the question cannot be provided in the form requested except at a disproportionate cost.

Although data on sentencing for the period are not available for the constituency of Hackney, North and Stoke Newington, they are available for London. This shows the total number of offenders sentenced annually was 202,478 in 1997 and 242,429 in 2008, the latest period for which such information is available.

The number of offences brought to justice for London increased from 119,531 for the 12 months ending 31 March 2001 (the earliest period since which such data have been compiled) to 230,202 (provisional figures) for the 12 months ending 31 March 2009.

With regard to prosecutions, data are not available for the constituency of Hackney, North and Stoke Newington. However, the total number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts by the Metropolitan police was 260,328 in 1997 compared to 279,581 in 2008.

The latest data, which cover reoffending in the period 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2009, showed that the three month reoffending rate for offenders on the probation caseload in Hackney was 8.04 per cent. After controlling for changes in the characteristics of offenders on the probation caseload, there was a reduction in reoffending of 8.49 per cent. compared to the 2007-08 baseline. Data are not available prior to 2007 on this basis.

The number of persons commencing court order supervision by the probation service in London was 17,214 in 1997 and 23,787 in 2008.

158,440 civil non-family proceedings were started in the county courts of London Civil and Family HM Courts Service (HMCS) area in 2008, compared to 263,305 in 1998, the first year for which these figures are available. In respect of family law, there were also 15,512 private law applications and 870 public law applications made in the county or High Courts of this HMCS area in 2008-09, compared to 11,684 and 1,095 respectively in 2003-04, the first annual period for which these figures are available.

In addition, at a national level:

Local communities are being better engaged in criminal justice—by giving them a say in the types of Community Payback projects offenders carry out and allowing them to see justice being done, for example through the use of high visibility jackets. Offenders have now worked more than 14 million hours, with an estimated value to the taxpayer of over £80 million.

Major constitutional reforms have been delivered, including devolution, the Human Rights Act, Freedom of Information, Lords Reform, and a new Supreme Court for the UK.

Knives: Sentencing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 548W, on knife sentencing, what the *(a)* lowest, *(b)* highest and *(c)* average fine was for the selling of knives to a minor in each year since 1998. [317838]

Claire Ward: The requested information is provided in the following table.

Average, highest and lowest fines given for selling a knife or other bladed article to a person under age[1], 1998 to 2008

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Highest fine (£)	2,000	100	[2]—	3,250	4,000	4,000	3,000	2,500	4,500	2,000	3,500
Average fine (£)	[3]—	[3]—	[2]—	1,400	1,518	1,123	1,200	726	813	540	1,035
Lowest fine (£)	700	100	[2]—	100	75	70	200	100	75	100	90
Total fined	2	1	0	8	10	14	6	25	43	29	22

[1] 16 as enacted by the Criminal Justice Act 1988 amended to 18 by Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006.

[2] Not applicable (zero fines)

[3] Figure suppressed as number too small to give meaningful average.

Note:

These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Legal Aid: Sexual Offences

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will instruct legal aid providers to withdraw support from an individual in circumstances in which that individual presents a continuing threat to others, with particular reference to offences of paedophilia and rape. [317527]

Bridget Prentice: Any individual charged with a criminal offence has the right to a fair trial, and is also entitled to legal aid if the interests of justice so require and if the relevant financial eligibility criteria are met.

The criteria governing eligibility for criminal legal aid take no account of whether or not the applicant has previously been convicted of a criminal offence. Nor do they allow for the withdrawal of legal aid if details of criminal offences committed by the applicant subsequently come to light.

The same principle applies to the civil legal aid, although exceptionally the applicant's past conduct may be taken into account if it has a direct relevance to the funding being sought.

Offenders

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 501W, on offenders, how many *(a)* adult and *(b)* juvenile offenders there were in each category. [317833]

Claire Ward: Figures for number of *(a)* adult and *(b)* juvenile offenders sentenced for indictable offences in England and Wales between 2000 and 2008 with no previous convictions or cautions are presented in the following table.

Offenders sentenced for indictable offences with no previous convictions or cautions by age group[1], 2000-08, England and Wales

	Adult			Juvenile		
	All sentenced offenders[2]	*First time offenders*[3]	*Percentage of first time offenders*	*All sentenced offenders*[2]	*First time offenders*[3]	*Percentage of first time offenders*
2000	269,637	32,950	12.2	52,269	6,659	12.7
2001	267,979	31,929	11.9	52,844	6,504	12.3
2002	283,444	31,240	11.0	52,538	6,395	12.2
2003	288,261	30,882	10.7	49,998	5,885	11.8
2004	271,717	30,846	11.4	51,138	6,162	12.0
2005	255,460	29,531	11.6	52,775	6,142	11.6
2006	250,384	28,436	11.4	52,942	5,764	10.9
2007	258,424	28,309	11.0	55,307	5,637	10.2
2008	274,657	28,687	10.4	50,835	5,148	10.1

[1] Excluding offenders whose age at sentence was not recorded on the PNC.
[2] Counts of person sentenced during the year. An offender may be counted more than once if he or she has been sentenced more than once during the year.
[3] Offenders who have never been cautioned or convicted previously.

These figures are taken from Table 6.4 of 'Sentencing Statistics 2008' which was published on 28 January 2010 and can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

The figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with Sir Hayden Phillips on the online publication of the background papers to his consideration of the funding of political parties. [318346]

Mr. Wills: On 21 October 2009, Sir Hayden Phillips wrote to the representatives of each of the political parties participating in the inter-party talks asking whether they would consent to the release and publication of the background papers and minutes from the inter-party talks on the funding of political parties. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) has since responded to Sir Hayden in his capacity as Labour Party participant. Ministry of Justice officials have responded separately to Sir Hayden in respect of the background papers prepared by the Department. I understand that Sir Hayden is currently considering the parties' responses.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the minutes of the final meeting of Sir Hayden Phillips' review of the funding of political parties. [318347]

Mr. Wills: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) to the hon. Member for Chichester (Mr. Tyrie) on 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1194W.

Prisons: Drugs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made on the development of a National Intelligence Model to enable the National Offender Management Service to disrupt the supply of illicit drugs into prisons. [316189]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service is preparing revised guidance on the management and use of intelligence in prisons. While not meeting the specific technical criteria of a National Intelligence Model, it describes key strategic tools and processes for the effective gathering, analysis and action from intelligence. On the specific issue of addressing illicit drug supply, a range of measures in combination disrupt the supply of drugs into prisons. The level of drug misuse in prisons as measured by mandatory drug testing has declined by 68 per cent. since 1996-97.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in each of the 10 *(a)* most and *(b)* least deprived local authority areas have (i) undertaken drug treatment programmes and (ii) been convicted of (A) alcohol-related offences and (B) violent crimes in each of the last five years. [317769]

Claire Ward: The available information from the Department of Health is shown in the following tables, showing the number of adults in drug treatment by year in the top 10 most and least deprived partnerships:

Number of adults in treatment by year in top 10 most deprived partnerships, 2005-06 to 2008-09[1]

Partnership name	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Birmingham	5,330	5,832	6,439	6,894
Hackney	1,050	1,498	1,643	1,704
Islington	1,610	1,754	1,538	1,739
Kingston upon Hull	2,098	2,214	2,026	2,249
Knowsley	885	1,111	1,153	1,109
Liverpool	3,951	4,046	4,213	4,510
Manchester	3,233	3,476	3,538	3,671
Middlesbrough	1,250	1,352	1,477	1,812
Newham	1,014	1,276	1,346	1,307
Tower Hamlets	1,225	1,448	1,644	1,709

Number of adults in treatment by year in top 10 least deprived partnerships, 2005-06 to 2008-09[1]

Partnership name	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Bracknell Forest	123	151	190	236
Buckinghamshire	862	790	872	947

Number of adults in treatment by year in top 10 least deprived partnerships, 2005-06 to 2008-09[1]

Partnership name	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Richmond upon Thames	628	665	698	598
Rutland	21	26	21	22
South Gloucestershire	475	534	625	786
Surrey	2,072	2,041	1,924	1,955
West Berkshire	211	250	265	282
Wiltshire	730	709	707	741
Windsor and Maidenhead	244	287	297	317
Wokingham	156	187	189	202

[1] The partnerships were taken from CLG data, Indices of Deprivation 2007. The statistics were provided by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA).

The Ministry of Justice does not hold data on convictions by local authority area.

In addition, to show the volume of persons who have been convicted of such offences and undertaken drug treatment could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Further information on deprivation and crime is available from the Office of National Statistics' Neighbourhood Statistics website:

http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/

Young Offender Institutions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* capacity and *(b)* population was of each young offender institution in each of the last five years. [317545]

Claire Ward: The following tables give the population and capacity of each Young Offender Institution in England and Wales.

Young Offender Prison Establishments in England and Wales 2005-09

	As at June 2005		As at June 2006		As at June 2007	
Establishment	Population	Capacity	Population	Capacity	Population	Capacity
Ashfield	310	360	357	380	385	400
Aylesbury	425	438	442	444	441	444
Brinsford	444	493	473	489	473	489
Castington	332	410	385	410	386	410
Cookham Wood	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deerbolt	434	518	407	458	417	449
Feltham	608	761	604	764	590	764
Glen Parva	785	808	799	808	813	808
Hindley	403	455	418	495	502	515
Huntercombe	340	368	396	368	359	365
Lancaster Farms	521	527	518	527	530	527
Northallerton	196	209	218	248	249	252
Portland	392	398	479	524	542	557
Reading	291	297	283	297	262	287
Rochester	391	392	388	392	387	392
Stoke Heath	624	690	663	690	673	690
Swinfen Hall	581	590	606	620	619	620
Thorn Cross	234	316	205	321	240	321
Warren Hill	211	222	216	222	212	222
Werrington	134	148	155	162	146	162
Wetherby	342	360	338	363	354	360

	As at June 2008		As at June 2009	
Establishment	Population	Capacity	Population	Capacity
Ashfield	397	400	338	400
Aylesbury	437	444	433	444
Brinsford	525	509	521	569
Castington	398	499	371	410
Cookham Wood	34	59	86	90
Deerbolt	443	453	431	513
Feltham	629	762	680	762
Glen Parva	811	808	783	808
Hindley	494	523	289	515
Huntercombe	347	365	260	365
Lancaster Farms	521	517	493	530
Northallerton	241	252	232	252
Portland	614	624	553	624
Reading	240	297	242	297
Rochester	388	392	647	700
Stoke Heath	619	634	580	678
Swinfen Hall	614	624	616	624
Thorn Cross	233	322	301	322

	As at June 2008		As at June 2009	
Establishment	*Population*	*Capacity*	*Population*	*Capacity*
Warren Hill	214	222	188	222
Werrington	137	162	130	162
Wetherby	310	320	360	408

Note:
Only those establishments with a predominant function of YOI are shown.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Young Offenders

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* 10 to 14-year-olds, *(b)* 14 to 17-year-olds and *(c)* 18 to 21-year-olds were sentenced to a period of custody in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007. [318445]

Claire Ward: The requested information is shown in the following table:

Number of juveniles and young offenders sentenced to immediate custody by age group and year, 1997, 2007—England and Wales

				Number of offenders
	Total sentenced		*Immediate custody*	
Age group	*1997*	*2007*	*1997*	*2007*
10-14	11,629	19,368	130	513
15-17	67,463	78,019	6,953	5,317
18-21	202,583	186,349	20,836	18,771

Notes:
1. The 18-21 age band differs from the standard age definition of young adults (aged 18-20). Offenders aged 21 will be eligible for a slightly different range of custodial and community sentences than offenders aged 18 to 20.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
3. These data have been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice Ref: PQ(JSAS)318445 (26/02/2010).

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* 10 to 14 year-olds, *(b)* 14 to 17 year-olds and *(c)* 18 to 21 year-olds did not comply with a community order in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007. [318446]

Claire Ward: In answer to part *(c)*, of those community orders which terminated in 2007 for those aged 18 to 21, 13 per cent. (3,865) were terminated because of further offences being committed and 26 per cent. (7,505) were terminated because the offender failed to comply with the order.

Data are only available from April 2005 as the community order was introduced under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 on 4 April 2005.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

For parts *(a)* and *(b)*, the data held by the Youth Justice Board do not allow them to ascertain how many young people failed to comply with a community order, as they are compiled by offence, not by young person, and exclude the majority of cases of non-compliance, where a young person was warned but the matter was not brought to court.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* 10 to 14 year-olds, *(b)* 14 to 17 year-olds and *(c)* 18 to 21 year-olds were charged with a criminal offence in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007; [318447]

(2) how many *(a)* 10 to 14 year-olds, *(b)* 14 to 17 year-olds and *(c)* 18 to 21 year-olds were convicted of a criminal offence in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007. [318448]

Claire Ward: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts, by age group, England and Wales 1997, 2007 and 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

The Ministry of Justice do not collect charging data; proceeded against information has been provided in lieu.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for all offences, by age group England and Wales 1997, 2007 and 2008[1,2,3]

	Proceeded against			*Found guilty*		
Age group	*1997*	*2007*	*2008*	*1997*	*2007*	*2008*
10-14	19,120	24,975	21,703	11,627	19,373	17,382
15-17	103,475	101,559	89,260	67,524	78,068	71,009
18-21	280,227	228,561	222,501	202,929	186,734	185,780
22 and over	1,436,563	1,366,400	1,295,649	1,092,435	1,123,790	1,080,975
All ages	1,839,385	1,721,495	1,629,113	1,374,515	1,407,965	1,355,146

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes convictions data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to criminal justice services of dealing with young offenders in 2008-09. [318493]

Maria Eagle: We do not have an estimate of the overall cost to criminal justice services of dealing with young offenders and this would be available only at disproportionate cost. However, the Youth Justice Board Annual Accounts show that 2008-09 they received funding of £495.287 million, which funds all of its functions including funding for local authorities' youth offending teams and operation of the secure estate. The YJB's forthcoming publication "Youth Justice Annual Workload Data 2008-09" reports that local authorities and their partners, such as social services, police and probation, contributed a further £222.8 million to the operation of youth offending teams in England and Wales in 2008-09.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the change in the number of 10 to 14-year-olds *(a)* convicted of and *(b)* receiving a custodial sentence for burglary was between 1996 and 2009. [318494]

Claire Ward: The available information is shown in the following table. 2009 data are not yet available and will be published in the Ministry of Justice Statistics Bulletin "Sentencing statistics, England and Wales 2009", due for publication autumn 2010.

Number of 10 to 14-year-olds sentenced for burglary and sentenced to immediate custody for burglary by year, 1996-2008, England and Wales

		Number of offenders
	Total sentenced for burglary	*Immediate custody for burglary*
1996	1,589	21
1997	1,595	38
1998	1,834	62
1999	1,780	89
2000	1,598	147
2001	1,553	167
2002	1,708	159
2003	1,451	134
2004	1,583	132
2005	1,583	109
2006	1,482	133
2007	1,417	97
2008	1,249	87

Notes:
1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
2. These data have been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe. *Source:* Justice Statistics Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice Ref: PQ(JSAS)318494 (26/02/2010).

Young Offenders: Sentencing

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many sentences for each type of offence were handed down to young offenders aged between *(a)* 10 and 17 and *(b)* 18 and 20 years in 2008. [317650]

Claire Ward: The requested information is provided in the following table:

Total sentences handed down to young offenders, for each type of offence, 2008

	Ages	
	10 to 17	*18 to 20*
Violence against the person	7,390	7,280
Sexual offences	513	373
Burglary	5,419	3964
Robbery	3,621	1,751
Theft and handling stolen goods	15,953	12,312
Fraud and forgery	520	1,407
Criminal damage	2,616	1,670
Drug offences	6,373	7,510
Other indictable offences	3,532	5,782
Indictable motoring offences	327	834
Summary offences (excluding motoring)	34,380	54,501
Summary motoring offences	7,731	40,191
Total sentenced	88,375	137,575

Notes:
1. These data are presented on the principal offence basis.
2. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed.
3. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.
4. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Youth Justice Board

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the real terms change in spending on *(a)* the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales and *(b)* local youth offending teams was between 2000 and 2007. [318440]

Maria Eagle: For the financial year 2006-07 funding to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) from the Home Office and DFES/DCSF has increased in real terms by £199,954,000 to £457,413,000 from its funding of £234,305,000 in 2000-01.

YJB funding to Youth Offending teams increased in real terms by £86,868,000 to £118,482,000 from its funding of £28,600,000 over the same period. YOTs also receive funding from other Government sources at local level (including police, probation, social services and via local authorities).

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost was of a Young Offender Place purchased by the Youth Justice Board in 2008-09. [318443]

Maria Eagle: For the financial year 2008-09, the average cost of place in a young offender institution for 15 to 17-year-olds was £58,000. This figure has been provided by the Youth Justice Board.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost was of a secure training centre place purchased by the Youth Justice Board in 2008-09. [318444]

Maria Eagle: For the financial year 2008-09, the average cost of place in a secure training centre was £153,000. This figure has been provided by the Youth Justice Board.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost was of a place in a secure children's home purchased by the Youth Justice Board in 2008-09. [318492]

Maria Eagle: For the financial year 2008-09, the average cost of custodial place in a secure children's home was £210,000. This figure has been provided by the Youth Justice Board.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to prevent the use of wild animals in circuses. [319176]

Jim Fitzpatrick: After careful consideration of recent studies and the representations we have received on the issue of wild animal acts in travelling circuses, on 21 December 2009 DEFRA launched a public consultation on how best to safeguard the welfare of these animals.

We are consulting on three options:

A complete ban on the use of wild animals in travelling circuses.

Voluntary self-regulation of the use of wild animals in travelling circuses.

Compulsory statutory regulation of the use of wild animals in travelling circuses.

The consultation will run until 15 March. Further information is available on the DEFRA website.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Minister of State plans to respond to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 15 December 2009 on the welfare of racing greyhounds. [319250]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I wrote to the hon. Member on 8 January 2010. I regret that my letter was not received. A copy was sent to the hon. Member on 24 February 2010.

CABINET OFFICE

Pre-Budget Report 2009

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the transcript of oral evidence from the Public Administration Select Committee on Government Communications, 14 January 2010, HC 219-i, question 42 on the pre-Budget report, if she will place in the Library a copy of the evidential basis for determining the marketing and communication budget; what the financial value in absolute terms is of the proposed reduction; and over what time period such a reduction is proposed to take place. [318331]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

The 2009 pre-Budget report announced that Government would save £650 million from cuts of 50 per cent. in consultancy spend and 25 per cent. in marketing and communications (based on 2009-10 spending levels) spend across Government by 2012-13.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Audio Recordings

* **Mr. Amess:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission with reference to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 26W, what progress the House of Commons Commission has made on placing on the Parliamentary *(a)* intranet and *(b)* internet site a sound recording of the debate held on the Motion on Her Majesty's Government on 28 March 1979; and if he will make a statement. [318694]

Nick Harvey: The answer given in March 2009 stated that a history area of the website was planned and that this is the sort of material which would be considered for inclusion. The history section of the website

http://www.parliament.uk/about/livingheritage.cfm

was launched in July 2009 with an initial selection of content. Consideration will be given to including this particular item, as well as other material, within the history section of the website in March 2010. New content may be publicised on the parliamentary intranet with a link to the Parliament website page.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Wind Power: Housing

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many wind turbines in England are situated within two kilometres of a dwelling house. [319074]

Mr. Kidney: The information is not held centrally.

TREASURY

Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Castle Point constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [318100]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 Census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/

The Government have put in place a broad programme of reform since 1997. Over the decade to 2007, the economic performance of all parts of the UK has improved considerably.

The global recession has had a negative impact on economic activity in all parts of the UK. However, the economy was starting from a position of strength and is actively supported by policies implemented by the Government, including the fiscal stimulus and a significant package of support for those out of work. In Castle

Point, people are benefiting from this investment. Over the second half of 2009, more than 450 people moved off of the claimant count each month on average. The claimant count fell for two consecutive months in October and November and stands below the level reached in September. Long-term unemployment is still nearly 80 per cent. lower than in 2000 at the start of 2010.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs, *(c)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(d)* his Department's other agencies spent on external recruitment consultants in the last 12 months. [315291]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The accounting systems of HM Treasury, HM Revenue and Customs, the Valuation Office Agency and the Debt Management Office do not separately identify spending on recruitment consultants from within general spending on recruitment and the information could not be supplied within the disproportionate costs threshold.

Equitable Life Ex-gratia Payment Scheme Review

Annette Brooke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 212W, on Equitable Life, in which month he expects to receive Sir John Chadwick's final report; and in which month he expects to announce details of the payment scheme. [318784]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 25 February 2010]:* The Government expect Sir John Chadwick to submit his final report in May 2010. The Government shall respond to this report as soon as possible thereafter.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 27 November 2009 on beer duty. [319246]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A response was sent to the hon. Member on 16 December.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 17 December 2009 on a high pay commission. [319247]

Mr. Byrne: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Non-Domestic Rates

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average Rateable Value on the 2010 Rating List is of hereditaments in each such location area. [317864]

Ian Pearson: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to Putting the Frontline First: smarter government, CM 7753, over which financial years changes to the level of funding of *(a)* arms length bodies, *(b)* Government advertising and marketing and *(c)* management consultants will be made; and how much will be saved in each such year. [318351]

Mr. Byrne: The pre-Budget report 2009 announced that Government would save at least £500 million by 2012-13 by reducing duplication between organisations and streamlining arm's length bodies.

The pre-Budget report 2009 also announced Government would save £650 million from cuts of 50 per cent. in consultancy spend and 25 per cent. in marketing and communications spend across Government by 2012-13. The 25 per cent. cut in marketing and communications spend will be based on 2009-10 spending levels and the 50 per cent. cut in consultancy spend will be based on 2008-09 levels.

For all savings, Government will work with Departments to help them deliver cuts although it will for individual departments and arm's length bodies to decide their priorities for future spending.

Valuation Office: Local Government

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 393W, on the Valuation Office: local government, who is undertaking the work referred to; and when that work is expected to be completed. [318077]

Ian Pearson: The Valuation Office Agency had discussions with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and has submitted a request that a legislative gateway be created. It is not possible to predict when this work will be completed because this will require primary legislation to be placed before Parliament.

WALES

Port Businesses in Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of the number of jobs in port businesses in Wales in each year since 1997. [318908]

Mr. Hain: These figures are not collated on a regular basis or specifically for Wales.

In November 2005 the Department for Transport published a report entitled "Port Employment and Accident Rates" which stated that 74,000 people in the UK are working directly on port related activities either on or off the port estate.

Sheep Meat Smokies

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the legalisation of the practice of preparing sheep meat smokies in the last 12 months. [318909]

Mr. Hain: None. However, the hon. Member will recall that my predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Torfaen (Mr. Murphy), met the hon. Member and a representative of the Farmers Union Wales on 22 April 2008 and subsequently made representations to DEFRA Ministers.

I am informed that the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and representatives of the UK meat industry have indicated that it is possible to produce such meat safely and hygienically in approved slaughterhouses.

The FSA is in discussion with the European Union to allow production of smoked skin-on sheep meat, commonly known as "smokies" for human consumption.

In the meantime, the production of smoked skin-on sheep meat for human consumption remains illegal. The FSA will continue to work closely with local authorities to take action against those breaching the relevant food hygiene and animal welfare regulations.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 28 October 2009, transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions, reference: POS(2)10520/0243. [309022]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 5 January 2010 and I apologise for the long delay in doing so.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with officials of North Central London Health Authorities on the provision of accident and emergency departments; and what consultation there has been on the future provision of emergency and intensive care facilities. [318020]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There have been no specific discussions between the Secretary of State for Health and officials of North Central London Health Authorities on this specific subject.

However, I met with representatives from NHS London, and the chief executives of the Whittington Hospital NHS Trust and Islington PCT on 2 December 2009 in advance of the Adjournment debate entitled 'The future of Whittington Hospital'. NHS staff brief Ministers on their local reconfiguration plans in order to support parliamentary business and do so as necessary.

Arthritis: Drugs

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 220W, on arthritis: drugs, what discussions on RoActemra his Department has had with the Prime Minister since the Prime Minister's press conference of 25 January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [318324]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Prime Minister made publicly clear on the 2 February 2010 that he will take an interest in RoActemra and I will be writing to him shortly to update him on the situation.

The Department has not needed any discussions with the Prime Minister since that statement because we are aware of it.

Audiology

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many places for the Bachelor of Science degree in audiology have been funded by each strategic health authority in each year since 2007; [318299]

(2) how many places for the Bachelor of Science degree in audiology will be funded by each strategic health authority in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [318300]

Ann Keen: The information available for those strategic health authorities that participated in commissioning is set out in the following table. The information requested for 2010-11 and 2011-12 is not yet available.

Strategic health authority	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
North West	41	34	41
Yorkshire and Humber	24	25	25
East Midlands	34	32	33
London	20	22	15
South Central	30	40	40
West Midlands	31	25	25
South West	31	30	30
Total	211	208	209

Derriford Hospital

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects on patient care of the transfer of the upper gastro-intestinal cancer unit from the Royal Devon and Exeter hospital to Derriford hospital. [318169]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A consistent theme in the national Improving Outcomes Guidance (IOG) is that cancer services are best provided by teams of clinicians who work together effectively. Team working brings together staff with the necessary knowledge, skills and experience to ensure high quality diagnosis, treatment and care and improves the co-ordination and continuity of care for patients. How the guidance is implemented locally, however, is a matter for the local national health service.

In line with national Improving Outcomes Guidance, upper gastro-intestinal cancer surgery moved from the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust, and Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust, and centralised at Plymouth's Derriford Hospital from 1 January 2010. All pre and post-operative care for patients will continue to be provided locally.

I am informed by the local NHS that expertise from clinical teams around the South West peninsula has been incorporated into a unit capable of delivering the best and most appropriate care to patients with these cancers.

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: Finance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received from the Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on the level of their funding for 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [319253]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health has received no representations from the Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on the level of their funding for 2010-11.

The Department does not make revenue allocations directly to foundation trusts. It is for primary care trusts to use the funding allocated to them to commission services from foundation trusts and other providers to meet the needs of their local populations.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been provided to the Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in each of the last five years; what the planned funding is for the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [319254]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The Department does not make revenue allocations directly to foundation trusts. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to use the funding allocated to them to commission services from foundation trusts and other providers to meet the needs of their local populations.

PCTs have been informed of their revenue allocations up to 2010-11. The allocations to PCTs in Gloucestershire from 2004-05 are shown in the following table.

Allocations to Gloucestershire PCT and South Gloucestershire PCT 2004-05 to 2010-11

£ million

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Gloucestershire PCT	515.9	561.9	669.7	731.2	771.1	825.9	868.5
South Gloucestershire PCT	188.3	205.9	250.2	275.2	290.2	323.1	339.7

Notes:
1. Allocations are not always comparable between years because of changes to baseline funding.
2. Allocations from 2006-07 include primary medical services funding.

Source:
Financial Planning and Allocations Division, Department of Health

PCTs allocations for 2011-12 onwards are yet to be determined. However, as announced in the pre-Budget report in December 2009, front-line national health service spending will be protected for the following two years to 2012-13.

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: Hospital Beds

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds there were at the Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in each of the last five years; how many beds it is estimated the Trust will have in 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [319255]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

Average daily number of available beds for Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust from 2004-05 to 2008-09

	Code	*Organisation*	*Total available*
2004-05	RTE	Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust	1,380
2005-06	RTE	Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,404
2006-07	RTE	Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,297
2007-08	RTE	Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,254
2008-09	RTE	Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,257

Notes:
1. Data for 2009-10 will not be collected until May 2010.
2.Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust became Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on 1 July 2004.

Source:
Department of Health form KH03

Hospitals: Admissions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people of each age were admitted to hospital for injuries sustained as a result of an assault by bodily force in each year since 1997; [317670]

(2) how many people of each age were admitted to hospital for injuries sustained as a result of an assault with *(a)* a sharp object and *(b)* a blunt object in each year since 1997; [317672]

(3) how many people of each age were admitted to hospital for injuries sustained as a result of an assault of having been hit, struck, kicked, twisted or scratched by another person in each year since 1997; [317673]

(4) how many people of each age were admitted to hospital for injuries sustained as a result of an attack by dog in each year since 1997; [317675]

(5) how many people of each age were admitted to hospital for injuries sustained as a result of an assault involving *(a)* a knife, *(b)* a sword and *(c)* a dagger in each year since 1997; [317676]

(6) how many people of each age were admitted to hospital for injuries sustained as a result of gunshot wounds caused by a handgun in each year since 1997; [317679]

(7) how many people of each age were admitted to hospital for injuries sustained as a result of gunshot wounds caused by *(a)* a rifle, *(b)* a shotgun and *(c)* a larger firearm in each year since 1997; [317681]

(8) how many people of each age have been admitted to hospital for injuries sustained by assault by *(a)* hanging, *(b)* strangulation and *(c)* suffocation in each year since 1997. [317684]

Gillian Merron: Information has been provided on the number of finished admission episodes by selected cause codes and age groups, between 1997-98 and 2008-09. Therefore it is important to note that as people may be admitted on more than one occasion, the data supplied do not describe the number of people admitted to hospital.

The data which have been provided in response to the question, on how many people of each age were admitted to hospital for injuries sustained as a result of an assault of having been hit, struck, kicked, twisted or scratched by another person in each year since 1997, include unintentional injury as well as assault as it is not possible to distinguish between the two.

For the question on how many people of each age were admitted to hospital for injuries sustained as a result of gunshot wounds caused by *(a)* a rifle, *(b)* a shotgun and *(c)* a larger firearm in each year since 1997 and the question on how many people of each age have been admitted to hospital for injuries sustained by assault by *(a)* hanging, *(b)* strangulation and *(c)* suffocation in each year since 1997, it is not possible to provide data according to the separate categories requested. However, overall numbers are available at:

www.hesonline.nhs.uk

For the question on how many people of each age were admitted to hospital for injuries sustained as a result of an assault involving a knife, a sword and a dagger in each year since 1997, it is not possible to provide on assaults by different sharp implements. Data on assault by a sharp object are available at:

www.hesonline.nhs.uk

Where any of the questions do not specifically request assault data, information has been provided for unintentional injury, self-harm and assault.

Modernising Scientific Careers Programme

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the first qualified paediatric audiologists are expected to graduate under the Modernising Scientific Careers programme. [318253]

Ann Keen: Working with stakeholders, we are developing a range of education and training programmes which will have a focus on audiology as part of Modernising Scientific Careers. These will encompass the needs of both adult and paediatric services.

Nurses: Pay

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* median and *(b)* mean salary of an NHS nurse was in each region in (i) nominal and (ii) real terms in each year since 1997. [318691]

Ann Keen: The following table states the mean earnings for qualified nurses from 1997-08 to 2008-09 in nominal and real terms (based on 2008-09 prices).

Mean earnings of a qualified nurse

	Nominal (£)	*At 2008-09 prices (£)*	*Percentage yearly increase in real terms*
1997-98	20,830	27,109	—
1998-99	21,042	26,820	-1.1
1999-2000	22,329	27,911	4.1
2000-01	23,427	28,903	3.6
2001-02	24,733	29,848	3.3
2002-03	25,702	30,048	0.7
2003-04	26,342	29,952	-0.3
2004-05	27,697	30,641	2.3
2005-06	28,784	31,260	2.0
2006-07	29,861	31,498	0.8
2007-08	31,149	31,935	1.4
2008-09	32,339	32,339	1.3

Notes:

1. Mean earnings are estimated from the qualified nurse pay bill figures using NHS accounts data together with the NHS Pension Scheme rates, and national insurance rates and thresholds that apply to NHS employers.
2. The pay bill data includes all qualified nurses employed by NHS trusts, primary care trusts, strategic health authorities and foundation trusts in England. It excludes agency nurses.
3. Foundation trusts do not submit a breakdown of their pay bill by staff group. Figures from 2004-05 onwards include estimates for the breakdown of each foundation trust.
4. Average earnings have been expressed in real terms using the HM Treasury gross domestic product deflator index.
5. Figures for the median earnings and breakdown by region are not available.

Sources:

Department of Health pay bill Model 2008-09

Trust Financial Returns and Foundation Trust Annual Reports (pay bill data)

Information Centre Workforce Census (staff numbers)

Preventive Medicine

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of his Department's annual budget is allocated to preventative and early intervention measures. [318842]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect detailed expenditure information in these areas since, subject to delivering national targets, there is local discretion on how the funding is spent. However, a report by Health England shows expenditure in England on public health and prevention for 2006-07. See Table 3 in the Report: Health England Report No 4. "Public Health and Prevention Expenditure in England 2009", available from:

http://healthengland.org/health_england_publications.htm

Table 3 in that report is shown in the following table, and provides a breakdown of spending based as closely as possible on Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) definitions.

Detailed prevention expenditure in England 2006-07

£ million

		Secondary prevention			
	Primary prevention	*Screening*	*Other*	*Medication*	*Total*[1]
Total prevention and public health services	1,771	1,482	482	1,337	5,072
Maternal and child health; family planning and counselling	840	21	0	0	861
Maternity services	618	—	—	—	618
Family Planning Clinics	101	—	—	—	101
Contraceptives	66	—	—	—	66
Health Visiting Group Services	53	—	—	—	53
Neonatal audiological screening	—	14	—	—	14
Quality and Outcomes Framework	2	6	—	—	9
School health services	44	0	115	0	159
School-based Children's Individual Health Services	—	—	115	—	115
School-based Children's Group Health Services	27	—	—	—	27
Healthy Schools Programme[2]	17	—	—	—	17
Prevention of communicable diseases	284	0	0	0	284
Immunisation[2]	238	—	—	—	238
Other infectious diseases[2]	24	—	—	—	24
Quality and Outcomes Framework	19	—	—	—	19
Reducing MRSA incidence[2]	3	—	—	—	3
Prevention of non-communicable diseases	206	1,461	348	1,337	3,352
Pharmaceuticals	—	—	—	1,337	1,337
Dental check-ups	—	937	—	—	937
Quality and Outcomes Framework	28	41	348	—	417
Screening programmes	—	275	—	—	275
Sight tests	—	208	—	—	208
Obesity/diet/lifestyle	116	—	—	—	116
NHS Stop Smoking Services	56	—	—	—	56
NICE Public Health Guidelines	4	—	—	—	4
CJD surveillance[2]	2	—	—	—	2
Occupational health care	4	0	0	0	4
Occupational Health for Dentists	4	—	—	—	4
Quality and Outcomes Framework	1	—	—	—	1
All other miscellaneous public health services	394	0	19	0	412
Health Protection Agency	248	—	—	—	248
NHS Blood and Transplant[2]	53	—	—	—	53
Publicity for prevention activities	34	—	—	—	34
Charitable expenditure on prevention	33	—	—	—	33
National Biological Standards Board	25	—	—	—	25
Public Health in Prisons[2]	—	—	19	—	19

[1] Figures may not sum due to rounding.
[2] Refers to expenditure from the central budget, data available only for 2006-07.
Source:
Health Inequalities and Partnership, Department of Health (Health England Report No 4. Public Health and Prevention Expenditure in England, 2009).

The expenditure on pharmaceuticals is included as its primary aim is prevention. Nevertheless, strictly, expenditure on pharmaceuticals is not included in the OECD prevention and public health category. Hence, for comparison with other countries using OECD data, these "medication" figures should be excluded. Excluding pharmaceuticals in line with OECD methodology gives a total expenditure on public health and prevention of £3.7 billion. If pharmaceuticals were included, the overall total for 2006-07 would be £5 billion.

Total health expenditure for England for the same period was approximately £93.5 billion. This suggests that about 4 per cent. of health expenditure is directed towards prevention (using the figure without pharmaceuticals and without health-related expenditure, so that this can be compared with other OECD countries).

Sodium Valproate

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what medical evidence there is of any negative side effects of Epilim (sodium valproate) on *(a)* embryos and *(b)* those under the age of 18 years; [318951]

(2) how many compensation payments have been made for medical problems resulting from the prescribing of Epilim (sodium valproate) in the NHS; [318957]

(3) what advice is given in the NHS on the prescribing of Epilim (sodium valproate) to pregnant women. [318959]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The safety, efficacy and quality of every medicine is thoroughly evaluated by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency as part of the licensing procedure and its safety is monitored continuously while it is on the market.

Animal studies have shown that Epilim has teratogenic effects. In humans, studies have shown an association between pregnancy exposure and neural tube defects such as myelomeningocele and spina bifida.

The product information which consists of the Summary of Product Characteristics for healthcare professionals and the Patient Information Leaflet contains extensive information to support the appropriate use of the medicine. These documents are available on the internet at www.medicines.org.uk. This information is also reflected in the prescribing advice provided in the British National Formulary, which is sent to all doctors within the NHS.

The product information for Epilim contains detailed advice in relation to the use of Epilim during pregnancy. It is currently advised that women of childbearing potential should not be started on Epilim without specialist neurological advice and the benefits of Epilim use should be weighed against the risks to the foetus.

Information on possible side effects which may occur during treatment with Epilim are also outlined in the product information. These side effects may have been reported during clinical trials or since Epilim has been marketed and have been assessed as either having a causal association or a strong suspicion of an association. Of the known side effects it is recognised that children who are treated with Epilim are at particular risk of developing liver damage and pancreatitis.

The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) handles negligence claims against National Health Service bodies in England. However, due to the way that data are organised on the NHSLA's database, this answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sodium Valproate: Prescriptions

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions for Epilim (sodium valproate) were issued to those under the age of 18 years in the NHS in England in 2009. [318960]

Ann Keen: This information is not available. NHS Prescription Services cannot supply exemption category data, e.g. children under 18, after December 2007 because the processes for pricing prescriptions and for capturing prescription charge exemption status has changed. Therefore, NHS Prescription Services cannot reliably estimate the data for each exemption category relating to the age of the patient from that date.

Sodium Valproate: Research

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research is being undertaken in the NHS on the use of Epilim (sodium valproate) for treatment in the NHS of diseases other than epilepsy. [318958]

Gillian Merron: The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is not at present funding any such research.

The NIHR health technology assessment programme commissions research where there is a gap in the knowledge the national health service has about healthcare treatments and tests. Suggestions for research topics can be made via the programme's open access form at:

www.hta.ac.uk/suggest/index.shtml

Spearhead Primary Care Trust

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of *(a)* the proportion of obese children, *(b)* the proportion of overweight children, *(c)* the percentage of people who smoke, *(d)* the percentage of people who drink, *(e)* the percentage of people who take drugs, *(f)* the teenage pregnancy rate and *(g)* the rate of sexually transmitted infections in respect of (i) Spearhead and (ii) non-Spearhead primary care trusts in each year since the inception of the Spearhead primary care trust programme. [318190]

Ann Keen: Not all the information is available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following tables.

Spearhead areas are defined based on local authority (LA) data. Spearhead primary care trusts (PCTs) are those that overlap geographically, either wholly or partly, with the Spearhead LAs. Where available, information is shown based on the 62 Spearhead PCTs (14 of which only partly overlap with the Spearhead LAs). Where information is not available by PCT, figures are based on the 70 Spearhead LAs. The Spearhead Group was launched in 2005.

Proportion of children aged 2 to 15 who are overweight and obese, by Spearhead group, 2008

		Percentage
	Boys	*Girls*
Obese children		
Spearhead PCTs	20	17
Non-Spearhead PCTs	15	14
Overweight children		
Spearhead PCTs	16	14
Non-Spearhead PCTs	14	14

Notes:

1. Figures are based on the 62 Spearhead PCTs (so are based on a larger population than the 70 Spearhead LAs).
2. Figures are shown for 2008 only. In 2008 the definitions used in the analysis were revised from those used in previous years to correct an error in the classification of children as either "overweight" or "obese". Results were not significantly different from those presented previously; however, revised data sets have not yet been made available for previous years.
3. Figures are based on children aged 2-15 with a valid body mass index (BMI) measurement.
4. Categories are mutually exclusive, i.e. overweight does not include those who are obese.
5. Overweight was defined as at or above the 85th but below the 95th UK National BMI percentile; obese was defined as at or above the 95th UK National BMI percentile.

Source:

Data from Health Survey for England, published in "Health Survey for England 2008 Volume 1—physical activity and fitness", The NHS Information Centre for health and social care, 2009 (table 13.5).

Proportion of adults aged 16 and over who drink alcohol or smoke cigarettes, by Spearhead group, 2005-08

				Percentage
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Adults who smoke				
Spearhead LAs[1]	27	27	26	24
Non-Spearhead LAs[1]	22	20	19	19
Adults who drink				
Spearhead LAs[1]	83	84	85	84
Non-Spearhead LAs[1]	88	88	88	87

[1] PCTs for 2008.

Notes:

1. Figures for 2005-07 are based on the 70 Spearhead LAs. Figures for 2008 are based on the 62 Spearhead PCTs (so are based on a larger population than the 70 Spearhead LAs).

2. "Adults who drink! is based on answers to two questions: Those who answer, "yes" to "Do you drink alcohol nowadays?" are classified as drinkers. Those who answer "no" are then asked, "Could I just check, does that mean you never have an alcoholic drink nowadays or do you have an alcoholic drink very occasionally, perhaps for medicinal purposes or on special occasions like Christmas or New Year?". Those who answer "Very occasionally" are also classed as drinkers.

Source:

Unpublished analysis from the General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics.

Proportion of 16 to 59-year-olds reporting use of any illicit drug, by Spearhead group, 2004-05 to 2008-09 British Crime Survey

				Percentage
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Any illicit drug use in the last year				
Spearhead LAs	11.1	11.1	10.5	11.9
Non-Spearhead LAs	10.3	9.6	9.2	9.3

Notes:

1. Figures are based on the 70 Spearhead LAs (so are based on a smaller population than the 62 Spearhead PCTs).

2. Based on a sample survey. Unweighted base numbers for 2008-09 are 6,793 (Spearhead LAs) and 19,013 (non-Spearhead LAs); bases will be similar in earlier years.

3. "Any drug" comprises powder cocaine, crack cocaine, ecstasy, LSD, magic mushrooms, heroin, methadone, amphetamines, cannabis, tranquilisers, anabolic steroids, amyl nitrite, glues, any other pills/powders/drugs smoked, plus ketamine since 2006-07 and methamphetamine since 2008-09.

Source:

Unpublished analysis from the British Crime Survey (BCS).

Under-18 conception rates, by Spearhead group, 2004-06 to 2006-08

	2004-06	*2005-07*	*2006-08*[1]
Under-18 conception rate			
Spearhead LAs	55.2	55.2	54.4
Non-Spearhead LAs	35.4	35.6	35.5

[1] Provisional.

Notes:

1. Figures are based on the 70 Spearhead LAs (so are based on a smaller population than the 62 Spearhead PCTs).

2. Rates are per 1,000 female population aged 15-17.

3. Figures are three-year average rates. Figures for 2006-08 are provisional.

Source:

Unpublished analysis of data from Office for National Statistics and Teenage Pregnancy Unit.

Rate of sexually transmitted infections (STIs)

Data on STIs diagnosed in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics are currently collected only by strategic health authority. Data on the rates of STIs for the period 2004 to 2008, the latest data for which figures are available, are published in "Selected STI diagnoses numbers and rates from GUM clinics in the UK: 2004-2008", a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Swine Flu

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has reviewed the effectiveness of the swine flu pandemic campaign in changing influenza patients' behaviour in visiting their GP to seek treatment. [318487]

Gillian Merron: Our swine flu campaigns sought to convey different messages at different stages of the pandemic.

People who developed swine flu symptoms, who had a serious underlying illness or were pregnant, as well as people who had a sick child under one year of age, were advised to contact their general practitioner directly. Other members of the public were encouraged to access the National Pandemic Flu Service if they developed swine flu symptoms. Over 2.7 million assessments were completed using the online and phone self-care services between July and February.

All of our campaigns are subject to evaluation and we will be evaluating the overall effectiveness of our swine flu campaigns in due course.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions for being drunk and disorderly there have been in each year since 1998. [315071]

Alan Johnson: The number of persons found guilty at all courts for being drunk and disorderly, England and Wales 1998 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table. A penalty notice for disorder (PND) can also be issued for offences of being drunk and disorderly. The number of PNDs issued 2004 to 2008 is included in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned to be published in the autumn 2010.

The number of persons issued with a penalty notice for disorder and found guilty at all courts for drunk and disorderly related offences in England and Wales, from 1998 to 2008[1,2,3]

Offences		*1998*	*1999*	*2000*[4]	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[5]
Drunk and disorderly offences	Penalty notices for disorder	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	29,106	40,176	46,268	49,062	45,849
	convictions	29,974	28,006	26,274	25,632	26,254	27,044	20,420	15,399	14,995	16,767	18,229

n/a = not applicable

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:

Being found drunk in a highway or other Public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises.

Licensing Act 1872 Sec 12.
Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour.
Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec.91.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

[5] Excludes convictions data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice
Ref: IOS 60-10

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted for offences related to purchasing alcohol on behalf of a person aged under 18 years in each year since 1998. [314994]

Alan Johnson: The number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences related to purchasing alcohol on behalf of a person aged under 18 years, England and Wales 1998 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the table. A penalty notice for disorder can also be issued for offences related to purchasing alcohol on behalf of a person aged under 18 years and are also given in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned to be published in autumn 2010.

Number of persons issued with a penalty notice for disorder and found guilty at all courts for offences related to purchasing alcohol on behalf of a person aged under 18 years in England and Wales, from 1998 to 2008[1,2,3]

Offences		*1998*	*1999*	*2000*[4]	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[5]
Buying alcohol on behalf of a person under 18	Penalty Notices for Disorder[6]	*	*	*	*	*	*	84	253	467	619	574
	Convictions	1	3	2	10	18	18	30	24	26	18	28

"*" = Not applicable.

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Includes the following offences and statutes:
Buying or attempting to buy intoxicating liquor for consumption by a person under 18.
Purchasing intoxicating liquor for consumption by person under 18 in bar.
(Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(3).
Licensing Act 1964 Sec 169(3)).
Person who buys or attempts to buy alcohol on behalf of an individual under 18.
(Licensing Act 2003 S149(3,4,7b))

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

[5] Excludes convictions data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

[6] The penalty notice for disorder scheme was implemented in all 43 police forces in England and Wales in 2004.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Assaults on Police

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have received *(a)* fatal, *(b)* serious and *(c)* slight injuries in the course of a crime involving a (i) gun and (ii) knife in each year since 1997. [317765]

Alan Johnson: The latest chapter on offences involving firearms in England and Wales was published on 21 January 2010 and available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0110.pdf

Text table 2c of the chapter shows offences recorded by the police in which a police officer on duty was injured by a firearm (excluding air weapons) resulting in fatal, serious or slight injury between 1998-99 and 2008-09. This is reproduced in Table A, and extended to include offences recorded in 1997-98.

It is not possible to provide data on offences involving knives in which a police officer has been slightly or seriously injured. The knife crime database covers only the most serious offences and does not hold information on severity of injury or the occupation of victims.

Available information on knife crimes resulting in fatal injury is taken from the Homicide Index and relates to currently recorded homicides in England and Wales where the victim was an on-duty police officer and the method of killing was sharp instrument. The data in Table B are as at 24 November 2009 and are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

Table A: Offences recorded by the police in England and Wales in which a police officer on duty was injured by a firearm, excluding air weapons, 1997-98 to 2008-09

	Total	*Fatal injury*	*Serious injury*[1]	*Slight injury*
1997-98	6	—	3	3
1998-99	11	—	—	11
1999-2000	10	—	—	10
2000-01	7	—	5	2
2001-02	10	—	—	10
2002-03	12	—	1	11

Table A: Offences recorded by the police in England and Wales in which a police officer on duty was injured by a firearm, excluding air weapons, 1997-98 to 2008-09

	Total	Fatal injury	Serious injury[1]	Slight injury
2003-04	14	1	3	10
2004-05	23	—	2	21
2005-06	23	1	6	16
2006-07	21	—	3	18
2007-08	24	1	3	20
2008-09	9	—	1	8

[1] A serious injury is one which necessitated detention in hospital or involved fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds.

Table B: Currently recorded homicides[1] where the victim was a police officer killed in the course of duty and method of killing was sharp instrument[2]: England and Wales, 1997-98 to 2008-09[3]

Year[3]	Number
1997-98	—
1998-99	—
1999-2000	—
2000-01	—
2001-02	—
2002-03	—
2003-04	—
2004-05	1
2005-06	—
2006-07	—
2007-08	1
2008-09	—

[1] As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Includes knives and other sharp instruments.
[3] Offences are shown according to the year in which they were initially recorded as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

Source:
Homicide Index (Home Office)

Bigamy

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of bigamy have been recorded in each year since 1998; and how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of an offence related to bigamy in each police force area in each of those years. [314814]

Alan Johnson: The Home Office has responsibility for the police recorded crime statistics and figures for the number of offences of bigamy recorded by the police are given in Tables 1 and 2.

Court proceedings statistics are collected by the Ministry of Justice. Information showing the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for bigamy in England and Wales from 1998 to 2008 are given in Tables 3 and 4.

The police recorded crime data are based on the number of offences recorded in each financial year. Court proceedings data are based on the number of offenders. These data are published on a calendar year basis and are counts of persons classified by their principal offence. For these reasons the two datasets are not directly comparable.

Table 1: Offences of bigamy recorded by the police, 1998-99 to 2001-02[1,2]

Number of offences

Police force area	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Avon and Somerset	6	4	4	0
Bedfordshire	0	2	0	0
Cambridgeshire	2	0	2	0
Cheshire	1	1	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	1
Cumbria	2	0	0	1
Derbyshire	3	1	4	0
Devon and Cornwall	1	0	3	2
Dorset	0	0	1	3
Durham	0	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0
Essex	1	2	0	0
Gloucestershire	1	0	0	2
Greater Manchester	4	0	5	2
Gwent	3	0	1	2
Hampshire	2	2	3	0
Hertfordshire	0	0	1	1
Humberside	1	0	1	0
Kent	2	3	2	2
Lancashire	2	0	1	1
Leicestershire	1	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	1	0	1	0
London, City of	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	3	1	2	1
Metropolitan Police	62	41	33	39
Norfolk	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	1	2
Northumbria	0	2	0	1
North Wales	1	1	0	2
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	0	1	1
South Wales	2	1	1	0
South Yorkshire	0	1	1	0
Staffordshire	1	2	1	0
Suffolk	2	2	0	1
Surrey	2	0	2	1
Sussex	7	2	4	3
Thames Valley	1	5	1	1
Warwickshire	0	1	0	0
West Mercia	4	1	1	0
West Midlands	4	4	2	2
West Yorkshire	7	3	1	3
Wiltshire	0	1	0	0
England and Wales	129	83	80	74

[1] The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
[2] The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002.

Note:
These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 2: Offences of bigamy recorded by the police, 2002-03 to 2008-09[1]

Number of offences

Police force area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Avon and Somerset	2	2	2	2	1	3	4
Bedfordshire	2	0	3	1	0	1	1
Cambridgeshire	4	3	1	1	2	0	2
Cheshire	0	1	2	1	0	1	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Devon and Cornwall	2	4	1	0	0	4	1
Dorset	1	2	2	0	0	0	0
Durham	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	3	1	1	0	0	1	1
Gloucestershire	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	5	1	5	5	5	2	5
Gwent	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Hampshire	6	4	0	5	0	1	0
Hertfordshire	0	0	4	3	0	0	1
Humberside	3	0	4	1	2	0	0
Kent	1	3	2	1	1	1	1
Lancashire	0	2	0	0	1	2	1
Leicestershire	0	3	1	5	1	0	1
Lincolnshire	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
London, City of	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	1	0	3	0	2	2
Metropolitan Police	33	25	40	37	21	30	17
Norfolk	0	2	1	1	0	3	2
Northamptonshire	0	2	5	0	3	1	0
Northumbria	1	2	0	1	1	0	1
North Wales	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
North Yorkshire	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
Nottinghamshire	3	3	1	0	2	0	0
South Wales	1	2	2	1	1	1	1
South Yorkshire	2	1	1	3	1	0	0
Staffordshire	1	0	0	2	2	0	3
Suffolk	2	0	2	2	0	1	1
Surrey	1	0	3	1	2	0	1
Sussex	0	0	1	2	1	1	1
Thames Valley	3	1	6	5	2	7	4
Warwickshire	1	0	1	2	0	5	3
West Mercia	1	0	2	0	2	0	1
West Midlands	1	3	4	6	6	1	2
West Yorkshire	2	3	2	2	0	1	4
Wiltshire	2	0	1	5	0	2	0
England and Wales	88	71	104	101	61	74	63

[1] The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Table 3: Persons proceeded against for bigamy offences 1998 to 2008[1, 2, 3]

Number of persons proceeded against

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
Cheshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Cleveland	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cumbria	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Derbyshire	—	3	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	—
Dorset	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Essex	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	1
Gloucestershire	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	—	4	1	1	—	—	—	3	3	—	1
Hampshire	—	2	1	2	1	3	1	1	—	—	1

Table 3: Persons proceeded against for bigamy offences 1998 to 2008[1, 2, 3]

Number of persons proceeded against

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Humberside	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Kent	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Lancashire	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	2	—
Leicestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Lincolnshire	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
London, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	1	—
Metropolitan Police	18	18	4	3	10	9	8	9	6	4	3
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Northumbria	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	3	1
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
Staffordshire	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
Suffolk	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
Surrey	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex	—	1	—	3	4	—	—	—	1	—	1
Thames Valley	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
West Mercia	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
West Midlands	2	1	1	2	—	1	—	1	3	1	—
West Yorkshire	2	1	1	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	1
Wiltshire	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	4	—	—
Dyfed Powys	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Wales	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
South Wales	1	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—
England and Wales	30	40	17	23	21	29	22	28	23	17	19

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] Excludes prosecutions and convictions data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

[3] The data are on principal offence basis.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Table 4: Persons convicted of bigamy offence 1998 to 2008[1, 2, 3]

Number of persons convicted

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Cleveland	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cumbria	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Derbyshire	—	1	1	2		—	—	—	—	—	1
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Dorset	1	—	—	—	1		2	1	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Essex	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	1
Gloucestershire	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	1
Hampshire	—	1	—	2	—	2	1	1	—	—	1
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Humberside	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Kent	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	1
Lancashire	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	—
Leicestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
London, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	1
Metropolitan Police	13	12	4	3	3	4	9	7	2	3	2
Norfolk	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

Table 4: Persons convicted of bigamy offence 1998 to 2008[1, 2, 3]

Number of persons convicted

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Northumbria	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	3	1
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—
Suffolk	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
Surrey	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex	—	1	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
Thames Valley	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	3
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
West Mercia	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
West Midlands	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	2	—	—
West Yorkshire	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1
Wiltshire	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—
Dyfed Powys	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Wales	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
England and Wales	18	28	12	17	16	20	22	21	11	16	19

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] Excludes prosecutions and convictions data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

[3] The data are on principal offence basis.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Independent Safeguarding Authority

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultation his Department undertook on the level of fees to be charged for the vetting procedure undertaken by the Independent Safeguarding Authority. [310860]

Meg Hillier: Consultation took place on the scheme as a whole. There was no separate consultation on the fee, which is set to achieve cost recovery for the Vetting and Barring Scheme as a whole.

National Identity Register

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what authorities may be provided with personal information held on the National Identity Register without the consent of the subject of that information. [318116]

Meg Hillier: The Identity Cards Act 2006, and secondary legislation made thereunder, set out who may be provided with information from an individual's entry on the register and under what circumstances. In particular, the Identity Cards Act 2006 (Provision of Information without Consent) Regulations 2009, and the Identity Cards Act 2006 (Information and Code of Practice on Penalties) Order 2009 prescribe Government Departments and public authorities respectively which may be provided with information without the consent of the individual.

Passports: Older People

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons entitlement to free passports for those over the age of 80 years was withdrawn; and if he will make a statement. [317172]

Meg Hillier: There has been no change to the eligibility for free passports. This is not an age related concession, but was introduced in recognition of those who could have made a substantial contribution to the national effort during the second world war. The free passport scheme is an extension of the initial scheme that offered free one-year passports to second world war military veterans attending 60th Anniversary Commemorative Events in 2004. It was decided to extend the scheme to full validity 10 year passports and to recognise those who may have made a contribution to the overall war effort, whether or not they had served in the armed forces. It therefore applies to those born on or before 2 September 1929 who would have been aged 16 or over at the end of the war.

Police: Football

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent policing football matches in *(a)* each police force area and *(b)* England and Wales in each year since 2003. [317570]

Alan Johnson: We do not have a national estimate for how much forces spend on policing annually. Forces are able to recharge a proportion of their costs and we estimate that the costs of policing charged to clubs annually is between £12-15 million.

Prosecutions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged *(a)* under 10, *(b)* from 10 to 17, *(c)* from 18 to 20 and *(d)* 21 years and over were (i) arrested, (ii) charged and (iii) convicted for (A) violent and (B) non-violent offences in each year since 1998. [315080]

Alan Johnson: The information requested on arrests covering the period from 1999-2000 (when the collection began) to 2007-08 (latest available) is provided in table A.

Data on arrests in 2008-09 are scheduled to be published in April 2010.

Information provided by the Ministry of Justice showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for violent and non-violent offences, broken down by age group, in England and Wales from 1998 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in table B.

The court proceedings database held by the Ministry of Justice does not hold information on convictions for persons aged under 10 who are under the age of liability.

Data for 2009 are planned to be published in the autumn 2010.

Information on the offenders dealt with by the Criminal Justice System does not necessarily reflect wider trends for characteristics of perpetrators of crimes, where often an offender will not be apprehended.

Table A: Number of persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by age group and type of offence[1, 2], 1999-2000 to 2007-08, England and Wales

Number of arrests[3]

Year and notifiable offence group	*Aged under 10*	*Aged 10-17*	*Aged 18-20*	*Aged 21and over*	*Age unknown*	*All ages*
1999-2000						
Violent offences	100	65,100	46,700	196,400	0	308,400
Other offences	1,000	253,300	175,700	539,400	0	969,600
Total	1,200	318,400	222,400	735,800	0	1,277,900
2000-01						
Violent offences	100	68,000	46,100	199,300	1,800	314,800
Other offences	700	252,700	166,300	524,900	4,400	949,500
Total	800	320,600	212,400	724,100	6,300	1,264,200
2001-02						
Violent offences	100	70,500	47,900	201,400	900	320,500
Other offences	400	243,800	160,300	544,200	2,500	951,400
Total	500	314,200	208,100	745,700	3,400	1,271,900
2002-03						
Violent offences	100	70,600	50,800	226,600	900	348,700
Other offences	300	229,000	156,300	576,500	2,200	964,400
Total	500	299,500	207,000	803,200	2,900	1,313,100
2003-04						
Violent offences	100	83,000	56,900	256,000	900	396,800
Other offences	500	230,300	145,200	555,600	1,900	933,800
Total	700	313,200	202,200	811,700	2,700	1,330,400
2004-05[4]						
Violent offences	200	96,700	66,800	294,000	900	458,400
Other offences	500	236,100	137,000	519,500	1,900	894,900
Total	800	332,800	203,700	813,400	2,800	1,353,400
2005-06						
Violent offences	200	108,500	74,500	331,800	800	515,800
Other offences	500	239,900	140,300	531,100	2,000	914,000
Total	800	348,500	214,700	863,100	2,700	1,429,800
2006-07						
Violent offences	93	115,173	81,617	362,585	1,037	560,505
Other offences	353	238,197	144,293	536,643	2,165	921,651
Total	446	353,370	225,910	899,228	3,202	1,482,156
2007-08						
Violent offences	41	102,802	77,864	363,629	1,685	546,021
Other offences	122	212,599	145,759	568,021	2,744	929,245

Table A: Number of persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by age group and type of offence[1] [2], 1999-2000 to 2007-08, England and Wales

Number of arrests[3]

Year and notifiable offence group	*Aged under 10*	*Aged 10-17*	*Aged 18-20*	*Aged 21and over*	*Age unknown*	*All ages*
Total	163	315,401	223,623	931,650	4,429	1,475,266

[1] Violent offences includes the offence categories of: violence against the person; sexual offences; robbery offences. Other offences includes the offence categories of: burglary; theft and handling stolen goods; fraud and forgery; .criminal damage; drug offences; other offences.

[2] Information on the offenders dealt with by the Criminal Justice System does not necessarily reflect wider trends for characteristics of perpetrators of crimes, where often an offender will not be apprehended.

[3] Figures from 2003-04 to 2005-06 are rounded to the nearest 100 therefore figures for these years may not add up to the totals, subsequent years' figures are unrounded. Additionally, figures for violent and other offences for years previous to 2006-07 may not be accurate due to the summing of rounded figures.

[4] Figures updated since publication of 2004-05 bulletin.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Table B: The number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences relating to violent, and non violent offences, in England and Wales, by age group, 1998 to 2008[1] [2] [3] [4]

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008[5] [6]*
10-17											
Violent offences	8,650	8,515	9,095	10,213	10,235	9,668	10,457	11,061	11,713	12,337	11,513
Non-violent offences	77,856	81,765	82,328	85,317	84,311	82,873	85,733	85,096	81,976	85,104	76,878
18-20											
Violent offences	7,959	7,836	7,865	8,042	8,429	8,129	8,520	8,821	9,449	9,849	9,470
Non-violent offences	159,431	157,979	154,415	150,387	151,361	154,359	148,231	137,806	133,612	130,763	128,474
21 and over											
Violent offences	30,550	29,279	28,144	27,908	31,139	31,897	32,438	32,938	33,708	33,669	34,146
Non-violent offences	1,173,120	1,112,897	1,131,712	1,057,862	1,126,726	1,194,295	1,252,609	1,199,530	1,143,315	1,136,243	1,094,665
All ages											
Violent offences	47,159	45,630	45,104	46,163	49,803	49,694	51,415	52,820	54,870	55,855	55,129
Non-violent offences	1,410,407	1,352,641	1,368,455	1,293,566	1,362,398	1,431,527	1,486,573	1,422,432	1,358,903	1,352,110	1,300,017

[1] Data given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Data include the following offence types:

Violent offences:
Violence against the person
Sexual Offences
Robbery
Non Violent offences:
Burglary
Theft and handling stolen goods
Fraud and forgery
Criminal damage
Drug offences
Other indictable offences
Indictable motoring offences
Summary offences (excluding motoring)
Summary motoring offences

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Information on the offenders dealt with by the Criminal Justice System does not necessarily reflect wider trends for characteristics of perpetrators of crimes, where often an offender will not be apprehended.

[5] Excludes Convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2006.

[6] Includes those cases where sex is not stated.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services Ministry of Justice

[Ref: IOS 055-10]

Reoffenders

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of prolific and priority offenders there were in each of the last 10 years. [317828]

Alan Johnson: The information requested is set out in the table. This shows the total number of offenders who were classified as Prolific and other Priority Offenders for each of the four full years since the Prolific and other Priority Offender programme was launched in September 2005.

Some offenders would have been classified as Prolific and other Priority Offenders during the course of the years shown, and others de-classified during the years shown, in accordance with local selection and de-selection criteria. At any given time, the total number of offenders classified as Prolific and other Priority Offenders is between 10,000 and 11,000 offenders.

The published evaluation of the Prolific and other Priority Offender programme in 2004 showed that the offenders first taken on to the programme in September and October 2004 reduced their convictions by 62 per cent. over their first 17 months on the programme.

Individuals classified as prolific and other priority offenders, by year

Year (April to March)	*Number of PPOs*
2005-06	17,007
2006-07	15,221
2007-08	15,904
2008-09	15,126

Theft: Vehicles

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will estimate the number of vehicles stolen during robberies and domestic burglaries in *(a)* London, *(b)* each police force area and *(c)* nationally in each year since 1998. [317661]

Alan Johnson: The number of recorded offences where a vehicle has been stolen during robberies and domestic burglaries is given in the table.

The collection of these supplementary data began in 2007-08. Figures are not available prior to this date. These data are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics. These data are provisional and may be subject to change.

The Policing Green Paper announced that Sir David Normington, Permanent Secretary to the Home Office, would lead a review of the strategic data collection burden placed by the Home Office on police forces in England and Wales. Sir David's report was published on 16 February.

Recorded offences of domestic burglaries and robberies in which a vehicle is taken[1]

	Domestic burglaries		*Robberies*	
PFA	*2007-08[2]*	*2008-09[3]*	*2007-08[2]*	*2008-09[3]*
Avon and Somerset	335	453	33	51
Bedfordshire	248	294	26	26
British Transport Police	0	0	0	10
Cambridgeshire	138	192	52	11
Cheshire	349	468	23	41
Cleveland	27	123	1	16
Cumbria	28	28	0	0
Derbyshire	285	277	17	21
Devon and Cornwall	63	82	6	4
Dorset	52	56	4	2
Durham	81	170	1	6
Dyfed-Powys	25	28	0	0
Essex	579	723	79	78
Gloucestershire	96	[4]—	5	[4]—
Greater Manchester	1,851	2,359	627	613
Gwent	63	94	0	2
Hampshire	159	279	23	16
Hertfordshire	407	566	16	25
Humberside	[4]—	249	[4]—	22
Kent	278	368	37	23
Lancashire	338	336	30	29
Leicestershire	225	277	20	23
Lincolnshire	90	142	2	13
London, City of	0	[4]—	0	[4]—
Merseyside	783	1,109	92	131
Metropolitan Police	2,479	3,144	1,000	845
Norfolk	16	22	1	1
North Wales	63	89	6	4
North Yorkshire	201	274	4	7
Northamptonshire	310	423	27	33
Northumbria	153	366	23	28
Nottinghamshire	434	481	47	33
South Wales	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—
South Yorkshire	605	665	45	54
Staffordshire	252	208	32	18
Suffolk	43	21	1	0
Surrey	157	200	5	8
Sussex	25	61	0	11
Thames Valley	843	1,091	40	49
Warwickshire	173	156	28	17
West Mercia	178	69	12	3
West Midlands	1,134	956	377	365
West Yorkshire	2,113	2,440	112	108
Wiltshire	62	62	4	7
England and Wales	15,741	19,401	2,858	2,754

[1] The data given in this table are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics. These data are provisional and may be subject to change.

[2] 42 police forces provided data for 2007-08.

[3] 41 police forces provided data for 2008-09.

[4] Police force unable to provide data.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 1 March 2010

WALES

Departmental Energy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the estimated *(a)* amount and *(b)* cost was of energy used in his Department in each year since 1997; what proportion of the energy used was generated from renewable sources in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [317234]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office holds records on energy usage since 2006-07; on the cost of electricity from 2002-03; and on the cost of other fuels since 2005-06. The available information is given in the following tables. Figures before these periods are not held centrally and can be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

	Energy used	
	Electricity (kwh)	*Other fuels (kw)*
2006-07	65,233	105,430
2007-08	69,780	58,980
2008-09	68,291	74,080

	Estimated cost	
	Electricity (£)	*Other fuels (£)*
2002-03	14,440.37	—
2003-04	9,180.72	—
2004-05	4,368.05	—
2005-06	4,132.43	8,505.35
2006-07	8,054.06	15,586.45
2007-08	4,007.14	13,746.23
2008-09	7,415.72	8,531.26

In 2003-04 and 2004-05, 10 per cent. of the Department's electricity was derived from renewable sources. Since 2005-06 this has risen to 100 per cent.

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what proportion of staff in his Department are disabled; and what the average salary in his Department is of *(a)* full-time disabled staff, *(b)* full-time non-disabled staff, *(c)* part-time disabled staff and *(d)* part-time non-disabled staff. [317899]

Mr. David: The Wales Office is a small Department and in the interests of maintaining confidentiality we are unable to disclose the figures requested.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many designs for its website his Department has commissioned since 2005. [318643]

Ann McKechin: Since 2005 there have been no redesigns of the Scotland Office website.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many thefts from his Department have been recorded in the last two years. [318997]

Ann McKechin: No thefts have been reported or recorded in the last two years.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departmental Energy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what steps the House of Commons Commission plans to take to enable the House to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. [319087]

Nick Harvey: The Commission has decided that the House will participate in campaigns only in exceptional circumstances and there are therefore no plans for the House to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. The event is understood to be taking place at 8.30 pm on a Saturday evening, so the potential for significant reductions in the House's emissions during the event will be very limited. An action plan and targets for reducing the House's carbon dioxide emissions are currently being drawn up.

Members: E-mail

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission with reference to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1211W, and pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 434W, on Members: email, whether Pretty Good Privacy (PGP) encryption is now compatible with Parliament's current version of VPN (remote access) software; what methods of email encryption are compatible with the PICT IT system; whether *(a)* S/MIME and *(b)* Steganos can be used on hon. Members' computers; and whether hon. Members and their staff can choose to install PGP encryption software on their computers without PICT exercising its right to remove it. [318316]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons Commission does not release information relating to software configuration. For more information regarding Members' rights to install software on parliamentary computers I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to him on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1211W.

Members and their staff may install their own software on their parliamentary computers. Members are responsible for the licensing and maintenance of any software that they install and, as the conditions of supply provide, PICT reserves the right to remove any software that is found to interfere with the proper operation of the hardware concerned, or the parliamentary network.

Members: Expenses

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what plans the House of Commons Commission has for the office space presently occupied by staff of the Department of Resources dealing with allowances of hon. Members following the transfer of such functions to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. [319206]

Nick Harvey: The staff who will transfer to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority currently occupy space on the third floor of 7 Millbank. The whole of the third floor will be freed up later in the year when other staff in the Department of Resources move to accommodation in Tothill Street. This will begin a series of moves which will involve moving Department of Information Services staff from 1 Derby Gate into 7 Millbank, and will culminate in the conversion of 1 Derby Gate into accommodation for use by Members and their staff.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Leader of the House how many designs for its website her Office has commissioned since 2005. [318646]

Barbara Keeley: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 25 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 534W, to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps). In addition to that reply, no designs for the Leader of the House of Commons website have been commissioned since 2007.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many designs for its website his Department has commissioned since 2005. [318645]

Paul Goggins: During this period, the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) website was redesigned in 2007.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to end the illegal drugs trade in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [319543]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: UK support is focused on building Afghan counter-narcotics law enforcement capacity, strengthening Afghan institutions, and providing alternative livelihoods for farmers. We are seeing progress. The number of narco barons being arrested and convicted, often by Afghan institutions mentored by UK experts, is increasing, This year, in Helmand, Governor Mangal has overseen the distribution of wheat seed to over 40,000 households in the 'Food Zone' and is overseeing the distribution of seed for summer crops to 27,000 households.

There have been dramatic falls in opium cultivation in Afghanistan in recent years—19 per cent. in 2008 and a further 22 per cent. in 2009. Although we cannot be complacent, we believe farmers are at least in part responding to improvements in governance and security.

The UK remains committed to the fight against the Afghan drugs trade, as a key component of our Afghan counter-insurgency and state-building effort. The drugs trade creates and funds the corruption which undermines the legitimacy of the Afghan state and provides a critical source of revenue for the Taliban.

Africa: Politics and Government

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the political situation in the Great Lakes region of Africa. [319454]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Levels of conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have dropped since late 2008, and improved relations between the DRC and Rwandan Governments have contributed to a stabilisation of the regional situation. However, violence, human rights abuses and displacement remain prevalent in eastern DRC in particular. The Government continue to work closely with the Governments in the region, as well as the UN and partners in the international community, to address these challenges.

British Nationality: Convictions

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions his Department has made representations to a foreign government on behalf of a UK citizen convicted of crimes involving *(a)* drugs, *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* violence and *(d)* computers in each of the last three years. [318590]

Chris Bryant: We will consider making representations to the local authorities, with the permission of the individual concerned, in any case where a British national detainee has not been treated in line with internationally-accepted standards. This may include cases where the trial does not follow internationally-recognised standards, or where there is a justified complaint about mistreatment or discrimination. We will make representations irrespective of the nature of the charges: our aim is to treat everyone in detention the same, no matter what they are being held for. However, we do not keep records in a way which can be readily searched to extract an overall figure for representations made on behalf of British nationals convicted of crimes overseas.

Colombia: Political Prisoners

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 416W, on Colombia: political prisoners, if he will make representations to the Government of Colombia on the fate of human rights defender Carmelo Agamez Berrio. [319463]

Chris Bryant: I have asked our embassy in Bogota to raise Carmelo Agamez Berrio's case with the Colombian Vice President's Office.

Commonwealth: Diplomatic Service

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* Canadians, *(b)* Australians, *(c)* New Zealanders and *(d)* Indians used UK consular facilities in absence of representation of their country in *(a)* each of the last three years and *(b)* 2010 to date. [319583]

Chris Bryant: From April 2008 we do not have figures available for third country nationals assisted by our missions overseas. Prior to this, our overseas posts were asked to provide, as part of an annual survey, the number of assistance cases handled, including how many cases involved unrepresented commonwealth nationals. These figures were not broken down by nationality. The figures for financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08 are as follows:

	Number
2006-07	
Total assistance cases	34,874
of which:	
unrepresented Commonwealth nationals	200
2007-08	
Total assistance cases	25,092
of which:	
unrepresented Commonwealth Nationals	155

Departmental Energy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department plans to take to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. [319093]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has arranged to switch off the lights in its UK offices, and has encouraged its overseas network to follow suit, subject to local operational concerns.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many designs for its website his Department has commissioned since 2005. [318651]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has commissioned two designs for its departmental website since 2005. The design was changed in March 2008 and again in October 2009.

Departmental Plants

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies has spent on pot plants in 2009-10 to date. [319211]

Chris Bryant: Since April 2009 there has been no identifiable spend on the purchase of pot plants within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Diplomatic Service: Manpower

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made an assessment of the potential effects on *(a)* security and *(b)* levels of fraud in respect of his Department's operations of the replacement of management officers in UK overseas missions as part of the Corporate Services Programme; and if he will make a statement. [319446]

Chris Bryant: The localisation of management slots under the Corporate Services Programme has been extensively discussed with relevant departments at home and overseas. We are satisfied that the implications for our security and incidence of fraud remain manageable. We continue to work with all our missions overseas to support them in ensuring the right controls are in place to handle risk effectively.

Government Hospitality: Wines

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 216W, on Government hospitality: wines, at which events between 25 November 2009 and 25 December 2009 wine from the Government wine cellar was served; and which of those events was attended by the Minister for Europe. [319372]

Chris Bryant: Between 25 November 2009 and 25 December 2009 Government Hospitality (GH) organised the following events at which wines from the GH cellar were used:

Date	*Event*	*Host Department*
25 November	Dinner for Kids Task Force	Department for Children Schools and Families
25 November	Dinner for Chinese Transport Minister	Department of Transport (DoT)
26 November	Lunch for European Ambassadors	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)
26 November	Reception for COI	Government Equalities Office
30 November	Reception for Asia Task Force	FCO

Date	*Event*	*Host Department*
30 November	Reception for Corporate Alliance	Attorney-General's Office
3 December	Reception for Global Health Security	Department of Health (DoH)
3 December	Dinner for European Parliament Transport Committee	DoT
3 December	Dinner for Global Health Security	DoH
6 December	Dinner for Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister	FCO
7 December	Dinner for Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister	FCO
8 December	Reception for FCO Stakeholders	FCO
8 December	Dinner for FCO Ministerial Team	FCO
9 December	Reception for London Diplomatic Science Club	Department for Business Innovation and Skills
9 December	Reception for Overseas Territories Consultative Council	FCO
10 December	Dinner for London Business School	HM Treasury
11 December	Lunch for GH Advisory Committee	FCO
14 December	Reception for Hon CBE Presentation	Department for Energy and Climate Change

I hosted the lunch for European Union Ambassadors on 26 November and the Reception for the Overseas Territories Consultative Council on 9 December 2009. I also attended the reception for FCO Stakeholders and the dinner for the FCO ministerial team on 8 December.

India: Terrorism

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the *(a)* dates and *(b)* location of each terrorist attack in India in the last three years; how many casualties were sustained in each such attack; and if he will make a statement. [318681]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We do not have detailed records of all terrorist incidents in India for the period requested. However the significant terrorist incidents (for which we have information) since February 2007 are as follows:

On 13 February 2010, a bomb exploded in Pune, Maharashtra. Nine people were killed and up to 53 were injured.

On 16 October 2009, a bomb exploded in the town of Margao, Goa, killing one person.

From 26-29 November 2008, terrorists attacked a number of sites in Mumbai, including luxury hotels, a railway station and a restaurant. Over 190 people were killed and more than 325 were injured. British nationals were among the casualties.

On 30 October 2008, 11 bombs exploded in Assam. Areas affected were Guwahati and the Barpeta, Bongaigoan and Kokrajhar districts. 77 people were killed and over 300 were injured.

On 21 October 2008, a bomb exploded in Imphal, Manipur killing 17 people and injuring many others.

On 27 September 2008, a bomb exploded in New Delhi. Two people were killed and 24 were injured.

On 13 September 2008 five bombs exploded in New Delhi, 30 people were killed and 90 were injured.

On 26 July 2008, a series of bombs exploded in Ahmadabad, Gujarat and the surrounding area resulting in up to 49 fatalities and over 100 injured.

On 25 July 2008 there were a series of bomb blasts in Bangalore, South Eastern India resulting in at least two fatalities and multiple injuries.

On 13 May 2008, there were a series of bomb blasts in Jaipur, western India, resulting in 60 fatalities and 200 casualties

On 13 December 2007, a train travelling from Dibrugarh to Guwahati was the target of a bomb blast, which resulted in five deaths.

On 23 November 2007, there were a series of explosions in the state of Uttar Pradesh resulting in at least 13 fatalities with multiple injured.

On 26 September 2007 a number of bombs were discovered in the Andheri suburb of the city of Mumbai near areas where large crowds gathered to welcome home the returning Indian cricket team following their victory at the Twenty20 World Championship tournament in South Africa.

On 25 August 2007 at least 40 people were killed and 56 injured when two bombs exploded in Hyderabad.

On 19 February 2007 explosions occurred in two carriages of the Samjhauta Express, travelling from Delhi to Lahore. 66 people died and over 50 passengers were injured.

Accurate records of casualties incurred are often difficult to obtain. Therefore in many cases we can only provide estimates. The UK is working closely with the Indian authorities to address the terrorist threat to India and the region.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to support the Government of India in combating terrorism in the subcontinent; and if he will make a statement. [318682]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK works with India to reduce the risk to India and to the UK and its interests overseas from international terrorism, through a range of operational and technical co-operation on counter-terrorism. We are closely engaged with India on tackling terrorism and developing our CT relationship, particularly in light of the devastating attacks in Mumbai in November 2008.

At my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Summit in January 2008, the UK and India agreed to co-operate on security for major sporting events, particularly on preparations for the Commonwealth Games in Delhi this year. Indian officials visited the UK in July 2009 where a number of areas for co-operation were agreed, including assistance on crowd control and venue security management. A UK team subsequently travelled to Delhi in September for a Commonwealth Games security conference in Delhi. UK Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, John Yates, visited Delhi in January 2010 to discuss security preparations for the Games and offer UK support.

Indonesia: Christianity

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the government of Indonesia on the treatment of Christians in Jakarta. [319653]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In general, there is a high degree of religious freedom in Indonesia, including for those practising Christianity.

We are aware of problems surrounding the forcible closure of and occasional attacks on places of religious worship, both Christian and Islamic. Our ambassador to Jakarta raised freedom of religion most recently when he met the chair of the Indonesian Parliament's Commission III on Law, Human Rights and Internal Security on 1 December 2009.

We, along with our EU partners, raise human rights concerns with the Indonesian Government and have pressed the authorities to ensure the rights of all religious minorities. We will continue to call for religious tolerance across Indonesia.

Iran: Politics and Government

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the political situation in Iran; and if he will make a statement. [318946]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The political situation in Iran remains unsettled and many Iranians continue to believe that their political rights are not being respected. The Iranian authorities continue to clamp down on civil liberties and legitimate protest, and intimidate demonstrators, including using the death penalty against those accused of political dissent.

These problems are entirely of the Iranian government's own making and suggestions that others, such as the UK, are responsible are both disingenuous and wrong.

Iran: Sanctions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2010, *Official Report,* columns 836W, on the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Bill, what discussions he has had with *(a)* his EU counterparts, *(b)* the High Representative and *(c)* the European Commission on the proposed extraterritorial legislation; and whether a common position has been agreed. [318804]

David Miliband: The EU's opposition to extraterritorial legislation has been made clear on many occasions. There has been regular dialogue with my EU counterparts, including the High Representative's office on this matter, although as any legislation has yet to be finalised, there has been no EU common position adopted.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of whether sales of refined petroleum products sold to Iran by companies registered in the UK or with headquarters in the UK will be affected by the US-Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Bill; and what guidance his Department has issued to UK companies on the matter. [318806]

David Miliband: We have been closely monitoring progress of different draft Iran sanctions Bills through the House of Representatives and Senate. The two Houses of Congress have not agreed a final version to send to the President. As this legislation is yet to be finalised, it is too early to determine the extent of the effect it may have on UK companies. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills provides clear guidance for exporters on extraterritorial legislation.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 836W, on the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Bill, what concerns he has about the use of extraterritorial legislation in respect of Iran's nuclear programme. [318807]

David Miliband: The UK and the US are united in their determination to address the challenge posed to the international community by Iran's nuclear ambitions. We are in constant dialogue with the US Administration to ensure that all our efforts are targeted on that rather than interrupting the sovereign right of nations to regulate activities within their own territory and interfere with the freedom of countries to conduct their own independent economic policies.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to reply to the letter of 6 November 2010 from the hon. Member for Woking concerning his constituent Mr. Brett. [319788]

Chris Bryant: We did not originally receive the hon. Member for Woking's letter of 6 November 2009, but have now had a copy faxed to us from his parliamentary office and will reply as soon as possible.

Overseas Residents: Death

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance is provided by *(a)* British consulates and *(b)* his Department to assist the next of kin of persons who have died whilst working overseas; and if he will make a statement. [319757]

Chris Bryant: When we are aware of the death of any British national abroad we will try to contact the person's next of kin as soon as possible. If the next of kin is in the UK we will ask the UK police to inform them. If they are overseas, our staff will try to contact them. We provide information about funeral options and on returning bodies and belongings to the UK. We provide a list of local and international funeral directors. While we cannot pay expenses, we can advise on how best to transfer money from the UK to pay any necessary costs. We advise families how to register a death and put them in touch with other organisations that offer help and support.

We also provide our publication 'Guide for bereaved families'

http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/2855621/bereaved-families

which brings together information that may be useful to families and friends of British nationals who die overseas.

Pakistan: Children

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has *(a)* received recent representations on (i) child labour and (ii) access to the justice system for (A) minority groups and (B) those in poverty in Pakistan and *(b)* had recent discussions with the Government of Pakistan on child labour in that country; and if he will make a statement. [318617]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK is committed to working with the Government of Pakistan to address the challenges that are faced surrounding the issue of child labour. Together with our EU partners, the UK regularly raises child labour and has lobbied the Government of Pakistan to implement existing legislation which protects children from such abuse. The most recent EU demarche on this subject was in December 2009. The issue of child labour will also form part of the forthcoming EU-Pakistan Human Rights dialogue.

Peacekeeping Operations: Human Rights

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which UN peacekeeping missions *(a)* do and *(b)* do not have a mandate to monitor human rights. [318503]

Chris Bryant: The following UN Peacekeeping missions are specifically mandated to monitor human rights:

The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID)

The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS)

The United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC)

The United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT)

The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)

The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI)

The United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT)

The following UN Peacekeeping missions are not specifically mandated to monitor human rights:

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)

The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)

The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)

The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)

The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)

The United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)

In Resolution 1244 the UN Security Council mandated the protection and promotion of human rights in Kosovo. While much of this work has now passed from the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to local and other international institutions, the UN Secretary General continues to routinely report on human rights.

Additionally all UN missions provide regular in-country reporting which may include monitoring of human rights. Significant progress has been made in integrating the UN's human rights work: for example all resident co-ordinators of UN country teams must now receive human rights training.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the proposed creation of a UN expert panel to investigate allegations of abuse of internally displaced persons by the Sri Lankan army. [318583]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are not aware of any specific proposals for the creation of a UN expert panel to investigate allegations of abuse of internally displaced persons by the Sri Lankan army. We support the EU's call for an independent inquiry into allegations of violations of international law by both sides in the recent conflict in Sri Lanka. This could play an important role towards genuine national reconciliation. We continue to support the work of the UN in this regard, and have urged the Government of Sri Lanka to work constructively with them.

Sweden: Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on anti-Semitic hate crimes in Malmö; what recent discussions he has had with the government of Sweden on anti-Semitism in Sweden; and if he will make a statement. [318687]

Chris Bryant: While our embassy in Stockholm monitors the domestic scene in Sweden closely, they have, to date, not seen specific reporting on this issue nor have representations been made to our embassy in Stockholm.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Constituency Organisation: Regulation

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission undertakes impact assessments of its regulatory policies on small constituency associations. [318117]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it is mindful of the likely impact of its regulatory work on all those it regulates, including small parties and constituency associations staffed by volunteers. The Commission further informs me that when it brings forward substantive regulatory policy proposals that have not been considered in a previous impact assessment, it prepares an initial impact assessment and invites comments on this.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what reports he has received of the alleged killing by NATO forces of 10 people including eight schoolchildren in the village in Ghazi Khan, Narang District in the eastern province of Kunar, Afghanistan in late December 2009; [318431]

(2) what discussions he has had with NATO allies on the reported killing by NATO forces of 10 people including eight schoolchildren in the village in Ghazi Khan, Narang District in the eastern province of Kunar, Afghanistan in late December 2009; [318432]

(3) what discussions he has had with representatives of the Government of Afghanistan on the reported killing by NATO forces of 10 people including eight

schoolchildren in the village in Ghazi Khan, Narang District in the eastern province of Kunar, Afghanistan in late December 2009. [318433]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The International Security Assistance Force, of which the UK is an integral part, is deeply saddened by any incident involving civilian deaths. However, this incident occurred outside of the UK Area of Operations and no UK troops were involved. In light of this, and the ongoing investigations into the incident, it is not appropriate for me to comment further.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of his Department's budget has been spent on Afghanistan in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [318696]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The net additional costs incurred on military operations in Afghanistan (Operation Herrick) are met by the Reserve and are in addition to the defence budget. The costs that the Department would have incurred regardless of the operation taking place, such as wages and salaries, are not included. Savings on activities that have not occurred because of the operation—for example training exercises—are taken into account in arriving at the net figures. The costs of operations in Afghanistan over the last 12 months fall into two financial years, as set out in the table:

£ million

Resource Type	*FY2008-09* *Final outturn*	*FY2009-10* *Estimate (as per winter supplementary estimates)*
Total resource DEL	1,655	2,209
Total capital DEL	968	1,545
Total all DELs	2,623	3,754

Armed Forces: Training

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of those who completed a course at the Defence Academy in the last five years *(a)* are serving in the armed services and *(b)* are working as civilian staff for his Department. [319260]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Colombia: Military Aid

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 742W, on Colombia: military aid, how many UK service personnel are assigned to conducting counter narcotics capacity building activities in Colombia. [317580]

Bill Rammell: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Defence: Public Expenditure

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of gross domestic product is spent on defence. [319546]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: An estimated 2.6 per cent. of UK gross domestic product was spent on defence in the financial year 2008-09.

Departmental Complaints

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has a procedure for *(a)* recording and *(b)* investigating complaints from members of the public. [319188]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Yes. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has a complaints handling procedure that follows the Parliamentary and Health Services ombudsman best practice guidance.

Details can be found on the MOD website at the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/Help/ModComplaintsProcedure.htm

Departmental Correspondence

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has standards of service for responding to correspondence from *(a)* members of the public and *(b)* hon. Members. [319187]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) follows the Cabinet Office guidelines for answering correspondence from members of the public and hon. Members. The Cabinet Office target is for ministerial correspondence to be answered within 20 working days. However, the MOD has undertaken to respond to 90 per cent. of letters from MPs and Peers within 15 working days. The MOD also aims to respond to all correspondence from members of the public within 15 working days.

The Cabinet Office publishes on an annual basis, a report on Departments' and agencies' performance on handling ministerial correspondence, and the report for 2009 will be published once figures have been collated.

Departmental Energy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department plans to take to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. [319091]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Ministry of Defence establishments will be encouraged to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010, subject of course to operational and security considerations.

Departmental Housing

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department received from the sale of housing stock in Scotland in each of the last five years. [319353]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence has received the following receipts from the sale of surplus housing stock in Scotland in each of the last five financial years:

Financial year	*Number of service families accommodation sold*	*Receipts received for service families accommodation sold (£ million)*
2005-06	238	14.9
2006-07	242	21.0
2007-08	107	16.0
2008-09	407	23.4
2009-10	[1]34	[1]4.6

[1] To date.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many designs for its website his Department has commissioned since 2005. [318654]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the armed forces collectively maintain four corporate websites. There have been the following designs commissioned across the four sites since 2005:

The MOD corporate website was completely redesigned in 2005-06 and re-launched on 1 February 2006. A series of minor design enhancements were made between June 2007 and March 2008:

www.mod.uk

The Royal Navy website was redesigned in late 2005 and re-launched on 6 February 2006. An additional refresh was carried out in 2007:

www.royalnavy.mod.uk

The British Army website was redesigned in 2008:

www.army.mod.uk

The Royal Air Force internet site was redesigned in financial year 2006-07:

www.raf.mod.uk

Information on designs commissioned for MOD websites other than the four corporate sites is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Consultation

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidelines his Department uses on public consultation; and whether those guidelines are published on his Department's website. [319054]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is committed to following best practice in conducting public consultations, and therefore follows the Government's Code of Practice on Consultation, which first came into effect from 1 April 2004.

The MOD's external website provides a link to the most recent version of the code, which is now displayed on the website of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Met Office

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Met Office Review Group continues to meet. [319152]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Met Office Review Group continues to meet on a regular basis.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department last met the Shareholder Executive to discuss the future of the Met Office; and when he expects the next such meeting to take place. [319153]

Mr. Kevan Jones: MOD officials met with the shareholder executive and discussed the future of the Met Office on 23 February 2010. MOD officials and the shareholder executive meet on a regular basis to discuss the future of the Met Office.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will meet representatives from the private weather sector to discuss the future of the Met Office. [319154]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Secretary of State for Defence has no current plans to meet representatives from the private weather sector to discuss the future of the Met Office. However, Shareholder Executive officials have met private sector weather companies as part of the Met Office Operational Efficiency Programme review.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made a recent estimate of the contribution of the private weather sector to the economy. [319155]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Secretary of State for Defence has not made a recent estimate of the contribution of the private weather sector to the economy.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what business models the Met Office Review Group is considering for the Met Office. [319156]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The recommendations of the Operational Efficiency Programme Asset Portfolio Document published in December 2009 outlined that the Met Office should pursue a range of value enhancing opportunities in terms of commercial business growth, improvement to its business model and efficiency through cross-government collaboration. There remains an option in the medium term that status should be kept under review as conditions and opportunities change.

Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 209W, on the Ministry of Defence Guarding Service Agency, if he will ensure that the Ministry of Defence Police remains part of the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency. [318618]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The agency status of the MOD Police and Guarding Agency is currently under review. Any changes to the structure of the agency would require ministerial agreement and also consultation with the trade unions and staff associations.

Trident

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether, as part of the programme to develop a successor to the Trident nuclear weapons system, his Department is carrying out any studies into the feasibility of using Astute class submarines as a platform for the launch of nuclear armed cruise missiles. [319193]

Mr. Quentin Davies: No. The 2006 White Paper "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm6994) concluded that a submarine launched ballistic missile system was the most cost-effective replacement for our existing nuclear deterrent. Cruise missiles have a number of disadvantages compared to ballistic missiles including smaller range and payload and increased vulnerability, and we are planning to replace the Vanguard class of SSBN by a new "successor" class of ballistic missile submarines.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many performance reviews were undertaken in respect of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; in how many cases performance was rated as unsatisfactory or below; how many staff left as a direct result of such a rating; and what percentage of full-time equivalent staff this represented. [313836]

Dan Norris: DEFRA and its Executive Agencies have undertaken annual staff performance reviews for all permanent staff over the last five financial years. These comprise formal reviews at mid-year and end-year and informal reviews on an ad hoc basis. Staff appraisal information is held as individual records; this means that collated data cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

A review of 'unsatisfactory' or similar rating does not directly lead to dismissal: DEFRA and its Executive Agencies have a specific process in place to manage under or poor performance which can be implemented at any time of the year and is not necessarily triggered by the performance marking.

The number of staff dismissals in DEFRA and its Executive Agencies, due to underperformance, over the last five years is in the table and also expressed as a percentage of FTE staff.

	Number	*Percentage*
2004-05	5	0.04
2005-06	6	0.04
2006-07	10	0.07
2007-08	[1]—	[1]—
2008-09	29	0.26

[1] Suppressed on grounds of confidentiality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies managed out in the last five years who remain working in the public sector. [313856]

Dan Norris: The term 'managed out' is not used within the civil service, so we have considered this question as applying to redundancies.

Neither DEFRA nor its agencies record whether staff who have been made redundant have remained working in the public sector. We are therefore unable to provide the estimate requested.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* works of art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last two years. [312428]

Dan Norris: The Department spend was as follows:

£

	New furnishings	*Works of art*	*New vehicles*
2007-08	117,190	Nil	170,078.65
2008-09	1,593,976	23,236	714,327.51

The notable increase in furnishings for the 2008-09 year includes major new build and refurbishment projects throughout the DEFRA estate including:

Lion House, Alnwick

Dragonfly House, Norwich

Foss House, York

Refresh of the London Estate (smart-working programme)

Various Animal Health refurbishments.

Delivery and payment for new vehicles in 2007-08 was delayed into 2008-09, hence the increase in total spend.

Departmental Travel

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to the public purse of international travel undertaken by his Department has been since May 2007. [318009]

Dan Norris: From information drawn from the core Department's central booking system, the cost of international travel, which includes air, rail and hotels, is as follows:

	£
2007-08	2,130,227
2008-09	1,602,431
2009-10 (April to November 2009)	1,007,791

The cost of international travel booked outside the central booking services could be determined only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what average time his Department took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313666]

Dan Norris: It is not possible to provide an average time taken to answer parliamentary questions. During the period 1 January to 31 December 2009 DEFRA received 562 named day questions, 327 of which were answered on the named day and 2,387 ordinary written questions, 2,148 of which were answered within 10 days.

The Department strives to provide hon. Members with answers to all parliamentary questions as quickly as it can.

With effect from the current Session of Parliament, each department will provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics on the time taken to answer written questions. This implements recommendation 24 of the third report from the Procedure Committee, Session 2008-09.

Foxes: Urban Areas

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers local authorities have to manage the number of foxes in urban areas. [318488]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There is no statutory duty on local authorities, or anyone else, to control foxes in their areas. In so far as authorities are owners and occupiers of property, they have the same powers to control foxes as any other owner or occupier. They also have a general discretionary power under the Local Government Act 2000 that enables them to take any action to promote social, economic or environmental well-being as long as there is no specific statutory prohibition.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assistance his Department provides to local authorities to tackle problems caused by urban foxes. [318489]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Natural England has published an advisory leaflet on urban foxes that describes a number of different approaches to control that are suitable in urban situations. The leaflet is available on the Natural England website or by contacting its Wildlife Management and Licensing Service.

If a local authority requested advice from DEFRA, we would recommend non-lethal methods to resolve fox problems (as territories made vacant by culling resident foxes are rapidly colonised by new individuals) and suggest the authority seeks further technical advice from a wildlife management adviser in Natural England if required.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints regarding urban foxes his Department received in each year of the last five years. [318490]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA occasionally receives complaints regarding urban foxes among a large quantity of correspondence about foxes more generally. This information has been held only since 2007 and it would not be reasonable or cost effective to undertake a manual search of our records to distinguish those cases that are specifically complaints about urban foxes.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are in place to prevent instances of rabies among urban foxes. [318491]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK has strict controls on importing rabies susceptible animals from other countries—six-months quarantine for some cases, or vaccination followed by a six-month waiting period for certain travelling pets. These controls offer good protection against a rabies outbreak, whether in domestic animals, livestock or wildlife, including urban foxes.

DEFRA, with the Food and Environment Research Agency and other partners, maintains contingency planning arrangements for a rabies outbreak in wildlife, which are currently being reviewed and updated. Measures to tackle the disease in urban foxes would include targeted vaccination programmes, although specific control measures would be determined by expert veterinary and other advice in response to any rabies incident.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to reply to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 11 January 2010, on litter and fly-tipping. [319458]

Dan Norris: I replied to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on 22 January and have arranged for a copy of the response to be sent to him.

Parrots: Animal Welfare

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 394W, on parrots: animal welfare, if he will bring forward proposals to establish minimum cage sizes and standards for parrots. [319256]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We consider that the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to provide for the welfare need of animals, including a suitable environment, are sufficient to ensure the proper welfare of pet parrots. Therefore we have no plans to bring forward further proposals.

Renewable Energy: Waste

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) on what dates the joint working group on energy from waste policy has met; [318392]

(2) what consideration the joint working group on energy from waste policy has given to end-of-waste fuels. [318393]

Dan Norris: The Energy from Waste Project Board held its first meeting on 27 January 2010.

The project is intended to provide clarity and guidance to those in local authorities and industry involved in waste management. In particular we shall be developing a more explicit hierarchy of energy recovery, seeking to define more clearly what constitutes "the right energy from the right waste". End-of-waste fuels are one of the materials the project will consider.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the three month period for consideration of comments made on the draft end-of-waste protocol under Article 8(2) of the Technical Standards Directive (98/34/EC) will conclude; and if he will make a statement. [318394]

Dan Norris: On 23 and 26 November 2009 the European Commission and Austria respectively commented under article 8(2) of the technical standards directive on the draft end-of-waste protocol for fuel produced from waste lubricating oil that the UK notified under article 8(1) of the directive. The UK responded to both sets of comments on 15 February 2010. In doing so, it was confirmed that the UK intended to adopt the end-of-waste protocol on the basis notified to the Commission on 27 August 2009 and that the UK would communicate the definitive text to the Commission in compliance with article 8(3) of the directive. The Environment Agency expects to publish the definitive text before the end of March 2010.

Sky Lanterns

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department has collated on the risks posed by air-released Chinese lanterns for *(a)* grazing livestock and *(b)* ripening crops; and if he will make a statement. [318578]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA has made no formal assessment of the risks posed by air-released Chinese lanterns. However, we recognise there has been concern among farmers and livestock keepers about the effect of these lanterns on grazing livestock. Anecdotal evidence suggests that while few animals have been affected, the impacts can be severe.

We are not aware of evidence that Chinese lanterns have caused damage to ripening crops, but we appreciate concern over potential risks including fire, contamination, and litter.

We will be working with interested parties to consider how the risks may be mitigated.

Veterinary Services: Complaints

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 49W, on veterinary services: complaints, if he will *(a)* invite the group Rights 4 Pets (PrOtEcT) vets to participate in the meeting on 2 March 2010 and *(b)* meet that group to discuss its representations on the investigation of complaints against veterinary surgeons. [319020]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 26 February 2010]*: I am meeting representatives of the Action Group Against the Disciplinary Committee of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons on 2 March 2010. Rather than invite the Rights 4 Pets group to this meeting at this late stage, I would be happy to meet the group on a separate occasion to discuss their concerns.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Sales

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what progress has been made on the sale of *(a)* Glasgow and *(b)* Edinburgh airports by BAA; when each such sale is expected to be completed; and if he will make a statement; [3195[illegible]]

(2) when he last met representatives from *(a)* BAA and *(b)* the Competition Commission to discuss the sale of (i) Edinburgh and (ii) Glasgow airport. [319596]

Paul Clark: The Competition Commission's market inquiry into BAA's ownership of seven UK airports included a recommendation that BAA should sell one of either Edinburgh or Glasgow airports. I have had no meetings with either BAA or the Commission on this matter. The Commission's decisions are currently the subject of legal process and it would not therefore be appropriate to comment further at this time.

Bus Services: Concessions

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much the Government has spent on concessionary bus travel for pensioners *(a)* in England and *(b)* in the City of York in each year since such schemes were introduced. [318579]

Mr. Khan: Before 1 April 2008, funding for the statutory minimum bus concession was provided exclusively through the formula grant system. Formula grant is an unhypothecated block grant and as such it is not possible to identify how much formula grant has been allocated to local authorities for any particular service, such as concessionary travel.

When the statutory minimum concession increased from half-fare to free fare in April 2006, additional funding of £350 million in 2006-07 and £367.5 million in 2007-08 was added to formula grant to fund the additional burden to local authorities.

From April 2008, the Department for Transport has provided additional special grant funding to local authorities to cover the extra costs of providing England-wide travel of:

(a) £212 million in 2008-09 and £217 million in 2009-10 to the whole of England;

(b) £1,112,199 in 2008-09 and £1,138,431 in 2009-10 to the City of York council.

The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) continues to provide the bulk of concessionary travel funding to local authorities through formula grant.

The following table shows how much was spent on concessionary travel by all local authorities in England and by the City of York council since 2000, when the Government first introduced a statutory minimum bus concession. These figures include spending on both older and disabled travel concessions and include any discretionary enhancements offered by local authorities.

£ million

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
England	468	487	487	510	539	532	783	873	990
City of York council	0.853	1.078	1.130	1.171	2.098	1.891	2.942	3.258	4.579

Departmental Empty Property

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Harrogate and Knaresborough of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 90W, on departmental buildings, what the *(a)* book value and *(b)* estimated annual rental value is of vacant residential properties owned by the Highways Agency. [315966]

Chris Mole: Property owner-occupiers who are unable to sell their homes because they are directly affected by a proposed Highways Agency road scheme (i.e. likely to have land acquired in the future) and are unable to sell it at a normal market price because of the scheme, can serve a blight notice on the Highway's Agency under the blight provisions of the Town and Country Planning Acts. If the notice is accepted, the agency has to purchase the property in advance of its operational requirement. These properties cannot be sold immediately because any new owner would be able to serve another blight notice on the agency requiring it to purchase the property again. The properties could also not be sold at a normal market value. These properties are therefore held by the agency while the scheme is in the major projects programme and the route is protected from development. In some cases this can be for a number of years.

The potential annual rental income from the Highways Agency's residential properties would be £3.4 million, if all the properties were let and in good tenantable condition. The net book value of the agency's properties that are currently let is £67.3 million; the net book value of the empty properties is £22.9 million. This valuation takes into account current condition and the effect of the planned road improvement on the property.

The values and potential rental income are broken down in more detail in the following table.

		£
	Net book value	*Potential annual rental income*
Beyond economic repair	1,335,200	97,200
In sale process	8,282,000	258,504
Currently under repair/refurbishment	5,377,000	225,900
Seeking tenants	1,515,000	58,380
Awaiting demolition	362,500	23,400
Held vacant for consideration for refurbishment next financial year	6,045,000	248,940
Total for empty properties	22,916,700	912,324
Total for occupied properties	67,258,250	2,534,787
Total	90,174,950	3,447,111

Departmental Housing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* potential annual rental and *(b)* total book value of (i) empty and (ii) occupied residential properties owned by his Department. [313740]

Chris Mole: Information in respect of the Driving Standards Agency and the Highways Agency is provided as follows.

The Driving Standards Agency owns the freehold of the land for its Bournemouth Driving Test Centre. Above the centre are two residential flats. Both are occupied. The Driving Standards Agency receives a peppercorn rent of £20 per annum in total. The occupiers of the flats each own the leasehold of their flat.

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Total	90,174,950	3,447,111

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many driving offences of each type were committed by drivers of the Government Car and Despatch Agency while on duty in each of the last three years. [319168]

Paul Clark: The Government Car and Despatch Agency does not hold information on driving offences.

The agency conducts an annual inspection of all driving licences of its drivers. Any driver with six or more points on his or her licence is reminded that the maintenance of a valid licence is a requirement of the job.

Hackney

Ms Abbott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Hackney, North and Stoke Newington constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997. [318375]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport (DFT) does not routinely hold transport statistics on a parliamentary constituency basis. The Department provides Transport for London (TfL) with a block grant to fund transport delivery in London. This grant has more than doubled in the last nine years, rising to almost £3 billion in 2009-10. Drawing on these and other resources, the Mayor is responsible for publishing and, through TfL, implementing a transport strategy for London, while the boroughs are required to publish local implementation plans which set out how they will contribute to the Mayor's strategy.

The additional funding that has been made available has helped deliver 1,089 million passenger journeys on the tube in 2008-9, the highest ever. London Underground's scheduled service is now its largest ever, and in 2008-09 96.4 per cent. was run, the best annual result for 14 years.

Bus services in London have also improved. 2,247 million passenger journeys were made in 2008-09 and patronage grew by almost 47 per cent. between 1997-98 and 2007-08.

Rail routes serving Hackney, North and Stoke Newington have also improved. Served by National Express East Anglia, this franchise has seen punctuality increase from 85 per cent. to 91 per cent. since 2004, over 450 carriages have been refurbished and many stations have been upgraded.

On the roads, national targets to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured by 40 per cent. and reduce the number of "slight" casualties by 10 per cent. (compared to the period 1994-98) by 2010 were largely exceeded by TfL by 2004, leading to TfL setting themselves new targets of 50 per cent. and 25 per cent. respectively.

There have also been improvements to cycling across London. In May 2010 TfL will launch its cycle hire scheme and construction of the cycle superhighways is now under way; one route will run from Tottenham to the City through Hackney. TfL report that cycling now accounts for 2 per cent. of trips in London compared to 1.2 per cent. in 2000, and between 2000-01 and 2007-08 TfL's automatic cycle counters reported an increase in cyclists of 91 per cent.

Motor Vehicles: Lighting

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what research *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have undertaken on the effectiveness of (i) halogen and (ii) bi-xenon headlights. [318636]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has commissioned two studies related to the effectiveness of halogen and bi-xenon headlights.

TRL carried out a review of existing research on gas discharge (i.e. bi-xenon) headlights in 1994 to assist in the development of European regulations on the subject.

In 2000, ICE ergonomics at Loughborough University studied headlight glare and driver vision to help establish a basis against which future headlamp performance requirements might be assessed.

Railway Network

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many new miles of railway track have been *(a)* brought into use and *(b)* laid at each location since 1997. [319072]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 26 February 2010]:* The Department for Transport does not hold information on when and where railway track has been added to or taken away from the national network.

This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to this question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

Railways

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 199-201W, on railways, if he will have discussions with the Association of Train Operating Companies on amending National Rail Conditions of Carriage to permit surfboards to be transported on trains. [319691]

Chris Mole: Wider discussions are already taking place between the Department for Transport and the Association of Train Operating Companies about the National Rail Conditions of Carriage. At the same time a general review of the Conditions of Carriage is under way to ensure that they are in accordance with current consumer law.

The Association of Train Operating Companies has reviewed in particular the table in Section II Appendix B relating to the carriage of specified articles, including surfboards. The outputs of this review will be a proposal from the Association of Train Operating Companies on behalf of their members for the approval of the Secretary of State.

Roads: Flooding

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department has spent on repairs to flood-damaged roads and related infrastructure in each of the last five years. [318661]

Mr. Khan: Following the 2007 summer floods this Department allocated £41 million funding to 10 local authorities to assist them to repair damage to their local highways caused by flooding. In 2009 this Department allocated £2.6 million to Northumberland to assist them repair damage to their highways caused by flooding.

This Department is currently working with Cumbria county council to assist them to identify the full damage to their highways network caused by flooding in November. To date, the authority have been allocated £4.6 million to cover the costs of establishing a temporary road bridge in Workington over the River Derwent to replace those damaged or destroyed. In addition the Army erected a temporary footbridge also over the River Derwent in Workington at a cost to the Government of £1 million.

This Department has agreed to contribute £30,000 towards the costs of short-term project management for Cumbria county council to develop their transport infrastructure recovery plan.

Because of the closure of the road bridges in Workington a temporary rail station at North Workington has opened and additional rail services have been put in place to allow transport across the River Derwent. The estimated cost to this Department of funding the additional rail services until May 2010 is £1.2 million.

PRIME MINISTER

Binyam Mohamed

David Davis: To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish the report on Binyam Mohamed which the Intelligence and Security Committee has made to him. [318917]

The Prime Minister: This will be published alongside the Intelligence and Security Committee's views on the consolidated guidance to intelligence officers and service personnel on standards during the detention and interviewing of detainees overseas.

Bullying

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister with reference to the answer of 1 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1815W, on Civil Service: bullying, how many complaints of bullying in the workplace have been made by Downing Street employees in each year since 2007. [318322]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the press briefing given by the official spokesman on 22 February 2010. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page22576

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Prime Minister how many designs for its website his Office has commissioned since 2005. [318644]

The Prime Minister: My Office has commissioned one design for its website since 2005.

Detainees

Mr. Hague: To ask the Prime Minister with reference to the statement of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 55-56WS, on detainees, when he expects to publish guidance to intelligence officers and service personnel on standards during the detention and interviewing of detainees overseas; and for what reason its publication has been delayed. [318802]

The Prime Minister: The Government remain committed to publishing the guidance as soon as the views of the Intelligence and Security Committee have been received.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Prime Minister with reference to the statement of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 55-56WS, on detainees, whether the Intelligence Services Commissioner has conducted his first annual review of compliance with the guidance to intelligence officers and service personnel on standards during the detention and interviewing of detainees overseas; and if he will make a statement. [318803]

The Prime Minister: Sir Peter Gibson's role in monitoring compliance with the guidance will commence when the consolidated guidance is published and in operational use.

Electoral Systems: Referendums

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister if he will consider the merits of including in any referendum held on electoral reform questions to include public support for *(a)* the Lisbon treaty and *(b)* Trident replacement. [319669]

The Prime Minister: I have no plans to do so.

HEALTH

Autism

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account will be taken of the mental health needs of adults with autism in the forthcoming adult autism strategy. [318965]

Phil Hope: The autism strategy aims to ensure that mainstream public services become more inclusive of people with autism. This will mean ensuring that individuals' needs—including mental health needs—are assessed and that people with autism get the right kind of support to address their assessed needs.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish the delivery plan for the adult autism strategy. [318973]

Phil Hope: The delivery plan, scheduled for publication in March 2010, will set out in more detail the timescale for delivery in the first year. Further delivery plans will be prepared for the second and third years of the strategy.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has commissioned an autism prevalence study; and if he will make a statement. [319257]

Phil Hope: The NHS Information Centre (IC) issued invitations to tender to short list potential providers, to deliver much clearer information on the prevalence of autism in the population.

The procurement exercise is now nearing its conclusion and the NHS IC is looking to award the contract by the end of the month. The Department hopes to publish the findings in spring 2011.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2010, *Official Report,* columns 1042W, on autism, when he plans to publish the delivery plan for the adult autism strategy to be produced under section 1 of the Autism Act 2009. [319640]

Phil Hope: The delivery plan, scheduled for publication in March 2010, will set out in more detail the timescale for delivery in the first year. Further delivery plans will be prepared for the second and third years of the strategy.

Blood: Contamination

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people there are with bleeding disorders infected with *(a)* hepatitis C and *(b)* HIV as a result of being treated with contaminated blood products. [318623]

Gillian Merron: Based on historical data on clotting factor exposure, the United Kingdom Haemophilia Centre Doctors' Organisation estimates that there were 2,807 patients with bleeding disorders still living on 31 March 2009, who had been exposed to hepatitis C through contaminated blood products. Of these, around 15 per cent. would be expected to have cleared the virus naturally.

Source:

UK Haemophilia Centres Doctors' Organisation Annual Report 2009 and Bleeding Disorder Statistics for the Financial Year 2008-09 (September 2009), table 15.

The number of patients with bleeding disorders infected with HIV, who were still living on 31 March 2009, is 346.

Source:

The Macfarlane Trust Annual Financial Report for the Year Ending 31 March 2009.

Care UK: Greater Manchester

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been assessed and treated by the Greater Manchester clinical assessment and treatment centre operated by Care UK since its inception. [319687]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since service commenced in February 2009, 24,596 patients have been discharged by the Greater Manchester clinical assessment and treatment service.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an estimate of the cost to the public purse *(a)* per annum and *(b)* per patient of treatment of each type at the clinical assessment and treatment service operated by Care UK in Greater Manchester. [319833]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The estimated per annum cost of treatment of each type undertaken by the Greater Manchester clinical assessment and treatment service (CATS) is shown in table 1 as follows.

Table 1. Estimate of cost per annum of treatment of each type

£

Treatment type	*Year 1*[1]	*Year 2*	*Year 3*	*Year 4*	*Year 5*	*Year 6*	*Year 7*
Clinical Triage	968,323	1,482,222	1,521,951	1,514,881	1,505,759	1,544,764	1,585,301
Direct Access Diagnostics[2]	15,433	0	0	0	0	0	0
Direct Access General Surgery[2]	549	0	0	0	0	0	0
Direct Access Gynaecology[2]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 1. Estimate of cost per annum of treatment of each type

£

Treatment type	*Year 1*[1]	*Year 2*	*Year 3*	*Year 4*	*Year 5*	*Year 6*	*Year 7*
Direct Access Time Limited Therapy[2]	237,964	0	0	0	0	0	0
Direct Access Urology[2]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ear, Nose and Throat[2]	2,379,146	3,633,748	3,731,336	3,714,158	3,693,705	3,789,692	3,888,273
General Surgery	5,567,095	8,524,021	8,752,884	8,713,044	8,666,296	8,891,610	9,125,552
Gynaecology	3,249,429	4,963,103	5,096,377	5,072,916	5,045,033	5,176,203	5,310,547
Musculoskeletal	3,160,486	4,826,638	4,956,208	4,933,808	4,906,547	5,034,089	5,165,362
Time Limited Therapy	1,717,056	2,985,771	3,065,880	3,051,895	3,034,978	3,113,875	3,195,184
Urology	1,941,798	2,965,459	3,045,030	3,031,689	3,014,594	3,092,928	3,173,063
Total	19,237,280	29,380,961	30,169,666	30,032,392	29,866,912	30,643,162	31,443,282

[1] Year 1 shows actual costs; subsequent years are nominal contract values.

[2] Includes direct access activities performed as non-contracted activity.

The cost of treatment per patient for each treatment type is shown in table 2 as follows.

Table 2. Estimate of cost of treatment per patient by treatment type[1]

Treatment type	*Estimated cost*[1] *(£)*
Clinical Triage	18.36
Direct Access Diagnostics	233.84
Direct Access General Surgery	549.36
Direct Access Gynaecology	—
Direct Access Time Limited Therapy	239.64
Direct Access Urology	—
Ear, Nose and Throat	233.89
General Surgery	339.84
Gynaecology	308.21
Musculoskeletal	336.01
Time Limited Therapy	259.77
Urology	343.82

[1] The costs shown are per patient. A patient may have multiple procedures during their treatment pathway.

Departmental Energy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. [319094]

Phil Hope: The Department will be alerting its staff to the Earth Hour as part of our wider sustainable development communications. However, since it occurs on a Saturday evening when most of our buildings have very low occupancy levels, we have no plans to mark it across our estate. In line with our standing practice, lighting will be dimmed in all our buildings and only lit where it is absolutely essential.

Departmental Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many arm's length bodies for which his Department is responsible there have been at the start of each financial year since 1997-98; how many staff each such body employed in each year; and what the annual budget was of each such body in each year. [318182]

Phil Hope: The details requested are available in published documents, including the "Annual Reports and Accounts" of the individual non-departmental public bodies, special health authorities and executive agencies.

The Cabinet Office published a detailed overall public bodies document, covering the whole of central Government, for each of the financial years 1997-1998 to 2005-2006. The documents are available from the civil service website at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/ndpbs.aspx

These publications list the Department's executive non-departmental public bodies and special health authorities, and provide details of funding, expenditure and staff employed. The Department's annual "Departmental Reports" also list its agencies for each year. These documents are available from the Department's website:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/AnnualReports/index.htm

From 2006-07 onwards, the Cabinet Office has published an overall summary public bodies document, without the previous level detail. However, the Department has published its own public bodies document annually containing this detailed information. Copies of the Department's public bodies documents for 2007, 2008 and 2009 have been placed in the Library. "Public Bodies 2007, 2008 and 2009" are also available from the following website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_113099

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many designs for its website his Department has commissioned since 2005. [318650]

Phil Hope: The Department's website was re-designed once in this period, in February 2008.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many layers of management reporting from the most senior to the most junior there are in his Department and each of its agencies; how many officials are employed in each such layer; and how much was spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff at each such layer in the latest year for which information is available. [312819]

Phil Hope: The Department and its agencies use grading structures which do not necessarily exactly equate to management layers. Within the Department and its agencies there are 11 separate grades. Details of each grade, full-time equivalent staff, and annual pay bill costs for the core Department and its agencies are given in the following tables.

Core Department of Health

The following figures given are for equivalent numbers of full-time staff (FTE) and are a 'snapshot', reported to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as at 31 March 2009.

Grade	*FTE as at 31 March 09*
Permanent Secretary	3.0
Director General	14.0
Director	53.7
Deputy Director and equivalents	184.9
Grade 6	252.8
Grade 7	450.8
SEO	367.1
Fast Stream	61.0
HEO	302.6
EO	382.2
AO	114.1
Miscellaneous[1]	72.4
Total	2,258.5

[1] The miscellaneous category includes spot rate staff, fee paid staff, Ministers, special advisers and miscellaneous grades.

The staff figures have been published by ONS and can be found in the Civil Service Statistics 2009 (Table 11) on the following website:

www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899

The pay bill figures as follows are for the full financial year 2008-09 and the following table was also part of the Department's Resource Accounts for 2008-09.

The overall pay bill for each grade in the table includes: salary, employer's national insurance contribution, employer's superannuation contribution, non-consolidated performance-related payments, allowances and, where appropriate, overtime.

Grade	*2008-09 Pay bill (£000)*
Permanent Secretary	659
Director General	2,260
Director	9,848
Deputy Director and equivalents	23,093
Grade 6	22,783
Grade 7	31,327
SEO	17,569
Fast Stream	2,652
HEO	12,223
EO	12,804
AO	3,381
Miscellaneous	2,478
Total	141,077

Please note that there are compositional differences between the two data sets presented above: ONS numbers provided for staff full-time equivalents (FTE) give the best measure of how many people work at the Department and at what level. Some individuals working within the Department are not on payroll, for example they are secondees in. The second table includes payroll costs of secondments and loans out (but not income associated with secondments out), whereas secondments and loans out are excluded in the ONS definitions for staff numbers. Additionally, payroll costs are for the whole year while ONS figures are snapshot.

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)

The following table has been produced by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's (MHRA) finance division in accordance with the principles used to publish the MHRA's 2008-09 accounts.

Grades	*Average FTE*	*Annual salary and associated employment costs (£000)*
Director General	2	387
Director	5	884
Deputy Director	101	11,572
G6	88	8,798
G7	105	3,013
SEO	186	6,979
HEO	79	7,383
EO	203	6,340
AO	119	2,861
Totals	888	48,217

NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA)

Analysis of numbers and salary cost by grade, as at 1 January 2010

		Salary cost	
Grade	*FTE at 1 Jan 2010*	*December 2009 month*	*Annual equivalent (£000)*
SCS	1	9,385.85	113
G6	11	24,762.14	297
G7	3	60,666.55	728
SEO	8	73,294.45	880
HEO	20	27,759.15	333
EO	17	41,608.98	499
AO	5	8,101.62	97
Total	66	245,578.74	2,947

Departmental Publications

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the copyright on the Platt Review on the establishment of a social care journal is owned by his Department. [318222]

Phil Hope: Copyright for the Raising the Status of Social Care report in 2007 rests with Dame Denise Platt CBE.

General Practitioners: Pay

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* median and *(b)* mean salary of a GP in each region was in (i) nominal and (ii) real terms in each year since 1997. [318690]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not fully available in the format requested.

Average (mean) information before 2004-05 at strategic health authority (SHA) and Government office regional (GOR) level and before 2001-02 at England level is unavailable.

Median information is unavailable at SHA/GOR and England levels.

Such data as are available have been combined into a table, which has been placed in the Library.

Health Services: Channel Islands

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals from *(a)* Guernsey and *(b)* Jersey have had emergency admission and received treatment from an NHS hospital since the cancellation of the reciprocal health agreement between the Channel Islands and the UK on 1 April 2009; and how many such individuals (i) have been charged the costs of treatment and hospitalisation, (ii) have been billed for costs of treatment and hospitalisation but have yet to make payment, (iii) were exempt from charges by virtue of (A) being in receipt of a UK state pension and having lived in the UK for 10 continuous years, (B) being a spouse or civil partner visiting the UK with an exempt UK state pensioner and (C) being a child visiting the UK with an exempt UK state pensioner; and if he will make a statement. [319359]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what method costs have been recouped in respect of charges incurred in emergency hospital admission and treatment of visitors to *(a)* the UK and *(b)* England from (i) Guernsey and (ii) Jersey since the cancellation of the reciprocal health agreement between the Channel Islands and the UK health services on 1 April 2009; and if he will make a statement. [319361]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally. It is for individual trusts to decide how charges are recouped in terms of methodology. This will depend on the circumstances of individual cases.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been recouped in charges from visitors from Guernsey and Jersey since the cancellation on 1 April 2009 of the reciprocal health agreements between the Channel Islands and the UK consequent upon their emergency admission and receipt of treatment in UK NHS hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [319696]

Gillian Merron: This information is not recorded centrally.

Health Services: Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on NHS healthcare in Feltham and Heston constituency in each year since 1997. [318597]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table shows the amount spent on healthcare services by Hounslow Primary Care Trust (PCT) from 2002-03 to 2008-09, which are the only years for which information is available by organisation.

Hounslow PCT—purchase of healthcare 2002-03 to 2008-09

£000

	Primary healthcare	*Secondary healthcare*	*Other healthcare*	*Total healthcare*
2008-09	77,753	219,184	0	296,937
2007-08	74,844	211,213	209	286,266
2006-07	74,258	201,055	1,020	276,333
2005-06	64,351	197,277	210	261,838
2004-05	56,090	206,485	8,093	270,668
2003-04	51,332	182,177	236	233,745
2002-03	37,303	160,932	1,263	199,498

Source:
Audited summarisation schedules 2002-03 to 2008-09

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses were employed in Feltham and Heston constituency in each year since 1997. [318598]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is contained within the following table.

All doctors and qualified nursing staff in selected area, as at 30 September 1997 to 2008

numbers (headcount)

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Hounslow Primary Care Trust (PCT)												
All Doctors[1]	—	—	—	—	—	122	137	143	149	124	138	154
Of which:												
Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS) Doctors[1]	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	3	4	1	9	13
General Practitioners (GPs)	*	*	*	*	*	120	134	140	145	123	129	141
Total Qualified Nursing Staff[2]	*	*	*	*	*	292	303	300	286	265	269	249

All doctors and qualified nursing staff in selected area, as at 30 September 1997 to 2008

numbers (headcount)

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Of which:												
Qualified Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting Staff	*	*	*	*	*	213	208	221	200	190	190	184
GP Practice Nurses²	*	*	*	*	*	79	95	79	86	75	79	65
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust												
All Doctors¹	166	163	180	197	200	198	220	248	248	257	288	238
Of which:												
HCHS Doctors¹	166	163	180	197	200	198	220	248	248	257	288	238
GPs	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total Qualified Nursing Staff	604	710	619	559	704	820	817	857	765	815	888	904
Of which:												
Qualified Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting Staff	604	710	619	559	704	820	817	857	765	815	888	904
GP Practice Nurses	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

"*" = Denotes not applicable.

[1] Data exclude Medical Hospital Practitioners and Clinical Assistants, most of which are GPs working part-time in hospitals.

[2] In 2006 GP Practice Nurse headcount data for Hounslow PCT were estimated using the national average ratio of full-time equivalent (FTE) to headcount.

Notes:

1. Workforce data are not available by constituency. Feltham and Heston constituency is contained within and serviced by Hounslow PCT and West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust.
2. Hounslow PCT was formed in 2002. It is not possible to accurately map workforce figures for this organisation prior to the formation of the PCT.

Data Quality:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Sources:

1. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics
2. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-medical Workforce Census

Health Services: Greater Manchester

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an estimate of the average unit cost per patient of *(a)* orthopaedic, *(b)* ear, nose and throat and *(c)* gynaecology and urology (i) assessment and (ii) treatment by (A) NHS hospitals and (B) the clinical assessment and treatment service operated by Care UK in Greater Manchester. [319834]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not hold the information in the format requested. We will arrange for the information to be prepared and a table will be placed in the Library as soon as possible.

Health Services: Isle of Man

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he has had with his counterpart in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Northern Ireland and *(c)* Wales on the modalities of and method for (i) recording and (ii) collecting charges from visitors from the Isle of Man who are detained and in receipt of emergency treatment in hospitals in (A) England, (B) Scotland, (C) Wales and (D) Northern Ireland consequent on the cancellation of the reciprocal health agreement between the Isle of Man and each UK health service with effect from 1 April 2010; and if he will make a statement; [319357]

(2) by what means he proposes to identify those visitors from the Isle of Man who are exempt from charges by virtue of *(a)* being in receipt of a UK state pension and having lived in the UK for 10 continuous years, *(b)* being a spouse or civil partner visiting the UK with an exempt UK state pensioner and *(c)* being a child visiting the UK with an exempt UK state pensioner following the cancellation of the reciprocal health agreement; and if he will make a statement; [319358]

(3) by what means it is proposed to *(a)* identify and *(b)* collect charges from visitors from the Isle of Man who are hospitalised whilst in the UK following the cancellation of the reciprocal health agreement on 1 April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [319360]

Gillian Merron: Under the national heath service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, trusts have a legal duty to identify and charge those overseas visitors to the United Kingdom who are not exempt from charges, and to make and recover from them charges for their treatment.

The Department has produced comprehensive guidance for the NHS to use when implementing these regulations, and most trusts have an Overseas Visitors Manager in post to oversee this. Trusts are advised to ask baseline questions to each patient to quickly identify if they have not lived lawfully in the UK for the past 12 months, and if they have not, to then interview them to establish if charges apply. It is a matter for individual trusts how they collect any charges that are due. The Department is contacting every trust informing them of the need to treat residents of the Isle of Man as overseas visitors from 1 April 2010 following the termination of the reciprocal healthcare agreement.

Following discussions with departmental officials, the Devolved Administrations are putting in place their own arrangements in order to inform their organisations of the changing circumstances.

Hospitals

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* general acute hospitals, *(b)* multi-service hospitals, *(c)* short-term non-acute hospitals, *(d)* long-stay hospitals, *(e)* specialist hospitals and *(f)* community hospitals there were in England according to the most recent Estates Return Information Collection data in each financial year from 1997-98 to 2008-09. [318186]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The available information is shown in the following table but comes with a heavy caveat that definitions have changed over the years and a new category of 'Community Hospitals' has been introduced. These changes will have a significant effect on the numbers in categories and direct comparison year on year therefore will not be valid.

	Number of sites						
	General acute hospitals	*Multiservice hospitals*	*Short-term non-acute hospitals*	*Long-stay hospitals*	*Specialist hospitals*	*Community hospitals*	*Total*
2000-01	392	—	390	394	—	—	1,176
2001-02	335	165	384	400	161	—	1,445
2002-03	312	209	376	426	192	—	1,515
2003-04	280	231	397	364	176	—	1,448
2004-05	290	221	414	331	170	—	1,426
2005-06	277	237	413	343	168	—	1,438
2006-07	270	139	252	295	174	404	1,534
2007-08	258	135	229	294	161	402	1,479
2008-09	274	135	219	273	185	428	1,514

Data on national health service sites were not collected by the estates related information collection before 2000-01. Data on multi-service hospitals and specialist hospitals were not collected before 2001-02 and community hospital data were not collected before 2006-07. With the introduction of additional categories, hospitals in one category may have been moved to another.

Until 2003-04, the provision of these data was mandatory for all NHS organisations. From 2004-05 onwards, provision of these data was mandatory for NHS organisations but voluntary for NHS foundation trusts, therefore, the data for this period may be incomplete.

The data are presented as provided by the NHS and have not been amended centrally. Any inherent errors in the data will not have been corrected and questions regarding their accuracy should be addressed to the organisations concerned.

Since 2000, 118 new hospital schemes have opened.

Modernising Scientific Careers Programme

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will be responsible under the Modernising Scientific Careers programme for *(a)* funding and *(b)* delivering audiology training courses. [318254]

Ann Keen: Higher education institutions in partnership with strategic health authorities and service providers will provide the new education and training programmes.

NHS: United Health Group

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contracts the NHS has with the United Health Group and its subsidiaries. [318827]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not held centrally.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Health Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many sexual health clinics in each primary care trust have obtained accreditation under his Department's "You're Welcome" scheme. [318585]

Gillian Merron: The following table outlines how many sexual health services in each primary care trust (PCT) have "You're Welcome" accreditation, and how many have met the criteria but are awaiting accreditation.

PCT	*Number of "You're Welcome" accredited sexual health clinical services*	*Number of sexual health clinical services meeting the "You're Welcome" criteria and awaiting accreditation*
Barnet	—	1
Blackburn and Darwen	1	—
Blackpool	1	—
Bolton	1	—

PCT	*Number of "You're Welcome" accredited sexual health clinics/ services*	*Number of sexual health clinics/ services meeting the "You're Welcome" criteria and awaiting accreditation*
Bradford and Airedale	3	—
Greenwich	—	6
Lambeth	2	1
Liverpool	1	—
Manchester	1	—
Middlesbrough	1	—
Milton Keynes	1	—
Northumberland	2	—
Newcastle	1	—
Oldham	1	—
Portsmouth	1	—
Stockport	1	—
Westminster	1	1

Spectacles: Irlen Syndrome

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to provide the spectacles required by *(a)* children and *(b)* those on low incomes who have Irlen syndrome at no cost to the recipient. [318663]

Ann Keen: Optical vouchers to help with the purchase of glasses or contact lenses with a prescription power are available to children and to those on low incomes or in receipt of benefits.

Where a child experiences symptoms associated with descriptions of Meares Irlen syndrome the child's parents or carer should discuss the problem with the school and consult an optometrist to ensure that they do not overlook the possibility of refractive error or eye disease underlying the difficulty. If, after a sight test (and supply of glasses if necessary), a child is still experiencing difficulties then a wider assessment is called for.

The best interests of children are likely to be served by a scheme of assessment and treatment, provided in agreement between local health and education services, which takes into account the full range of possible ways of helping children with the symptoms associated with descriptions of Irlen syndrome.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bangladesh: Floods

Mr. Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the outcomes were of his recent discussions with the government of Bangladesh, with particular reference to the £60 million of Government funding for mitigation of the impact of global warming in Bangladesh. [318611]

Mr. Thomas: Officials of the Department for International Development (DFID) are in regular contact with representatives of the Government of Bangladesh. A senior official represented DFID at the Bangladesh Development Forum meeting, held in Dhaka on 15 and 16 February. During this meeting the Government of Bangladesh confirmed their wish to establish a Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Climate Change. Decisions on how the fund will be allocated will be led by the Government of Bangladesh, which will also be responsible for implementing projects supported by the fund. The World Bank will provide technical advice and financial management. The UK, the European Union and Denmark will provide grants to the fund.

Bangladesh: Overseas Aid

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development to what projects and programmes he has allocated funding for the development of micropayment transaction systems in Bangladesh in the last five years. [318912]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has funded the £13.4 million Remittances and Payments Partnership (RPP) project since 2006. RPP is helping to modernise Bangladesh's payment systems, including supporting the legal framework for micropayment transactions and reducing the costs of remittances for the poor. A challenge fund under RPP has supported both piloting and scaling up of innovative micropayment transaction systems.

DFID has not supported any other such projects or programmes in Bangladesh in the last five years.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding the *(a)* Grameen bank and *(b)* Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee has received for the purposes of developing a micropayment transaction system in the last five years. [318913]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not provided any funding to either Grameen Bank or BRAC to develop micropayment transaction systems in the last five years.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has had recent discussions with *(a)* Muhammad Yunus and *(b)* Grameen bank on micropayment transactions in Bangladesh. [318914]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has had no such recent discussions with Professor Yunus or with Grameen Bank.

DFID, together with the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), recently organised a conference on "Expanding Financial Services in Bangladesh" to which Grameen Bank was invited along with other banks and micro-finance lenders. Discussions at the conference focused on how to reach those without bank accounts and improve payment systems in Bangladesh, particularly using mobile telephones.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible spent on advertising in 2009. [318835]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) works in over 100 countries across the world and advertising can play a significant role in achieving development programme objectives including the promotion of health issues. It is not possible to disaggregate these costs from development programme expenditure without incurring disproportionate costs.

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission spent £5,888.90 on advertising in 2009. DFID is not responsible for any executive agencies.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the amount of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department's buildings in each year since 2005. [318834]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) records and reports its environmental performance on a financial year basis. Data on energy use on the UK estate, and the corresponding carbon emissions, is reported in accordance with the "Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate" targets and is available on the websites of the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) and the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC).

The carbon dioxide emissions from our UK estate since 2005 were as follows:

	Tonnes
2005-06	4,574
2006-07	4,607
2007-08	4,387
2008-09	3,945

Departmental Energy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department plans to take to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. [319096]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) will participate in the Earth Hour event, and take action to ensure that all non-essential lighting in our UK offices is turned off during this time. We will also be actively encouraging our overseas offices to take whatever action they can, depending on local circumstances.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many designs for its website his Department has commissioned since 2005. [318648]

Mr. Michael Foster: Since 2005, the Department for International Development (DFID) has commissioned one new design, preceded by a simple refresh which enabled feedback to be gathered and inform the new design.

Developing Countries: Water

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to attend UNICEF's high level meeting on water and sanitation in April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [318580]

Mr. Michael Foster: This is a very important event and the Department for International Development (DFID) has been working closely with UNICEF to help ensure it is a success. I hope that the Secretary of State or I will be able to attend. If, however, for unavoidable reasons this is not possible, we will ensure that DFID is represented at a high level.

Haiti: Earthquakes

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on relief and deployments to Haiti since the earthquake on 12 January 2010. [319430]

Mr. Michael Foster: Since the earthquake on 12 January 2010, the Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated £20 million for relief and recovery in Haiti.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has made an assessment of the merits of taking steps to assist developing countries to follow the procurement and contracting procedures set by the World Bank in respect of access to aid. [318610]

Mr. Thomas: The World Bank offers assistance to help developing countries understand and use its procurement systems. No requests have been made by the World Bank or developing countries for assistance from the Department for International Development (DFID) and we have not carried out an assessment.

Sri Lanka: EU External Trade

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on the suspension of Sri Lanka's GSP+ trade preference scheme status; and if he will make a statement. [31[illegible]]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) fully supports the EU's decision to remove GSP+ trade preferences from Sri Lanka. Failure to implement core human rights conventions in Sri Lanka is unacceptable and the European Commission's report into these failures made the decision a straightforward one. I understand the importance of GSP+ to the Sri Lankan economy and I hope the EU's decision will encourage the government to take necessary action to implement its human rights obligations under GSP+.

The Foreign Secretary released a written ministerial statement to Parliament on 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 36-38WS, outlining recent developments in the political and humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka, including the UK position on GSP+.

Sudan: Non-Governmental Organisations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which non-governmental organisations his Department is funding to conduct aid work in *(a)* Sudan and *(b)* Iraq; and how much each such organisation has been allocated for work in each country for 2009-10. [318797]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral aid delivered by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in recipient countries are published annually in "Statistics on International Development", which is available in the House Library or online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Final data for 2009-10 is not yet available and will be published in the 2010 edition of "Statistics on International Development".

Following is a list of NGOs DFID is currently funding to conduct working in Sudan and Iraq in 2009-10. In addition to the direct funding to NGOs, DFID also provides support to a number of pooled funds through which NGOs can access funding; it is not possible to break down the recipients of these funds.

Sudan

Medair
Tear Fund
GOAL
Malaria Consortium
Red R

Iraq

International Red Cross
BBC World Service Trust
Care International
Christian Aid
Help Age International
Mines Advisory Group
Save the Children.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Al-Qaeda

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* asylum seekers resident in the UK are on the UN list of those belonging to or associated with al-Qaeda. [317773]

Alan Johnson: The latest UN Consolidated List of individuals who are associated with al-Qaeda is available on the UN Security Council Sanctions Committees' website at:

http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/consolist.shtml

We do not provide information that might identify those who have sought asylum in the United Kingdom, for obvious reasons.

Anti-terrorism Control Orders

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1053W, on control orders, if he will set out the working practices which allow judges and special advocates to access closed judgments; and if he will make a statement. [318762]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 25 February 2010]:* There are no restrictions on judges accessing closed judgments unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Practical arrangements have been developed to enable special advocates to see closed judgments in cases in which they are not instructed. The Special Advocates Support Office (SASO) maintains a library and database of all closed judgments. If a special advocate wishes to see a closed judgment he or she directs a request to the SASO, giving reasons why he or she needs to see it.

SASO will provide the judgment as long as adequate justification is provided. SASO keep a record of to whom and when judgments have been provided and notify the Home Office of the details via the Treasury Solicitor's Department. Once a special advocate has seen a closed judgment in a case in which he or she is not instructed, he or she will be prevented from acting in any related cases unless the individual in that case indicates in advance that they do not wish to meet with the special advocate.

Arrest Warrants

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken to secure the transfer to UK jurisdiction of an alleged criminal from each member state of the European Union was *(a)* in each of the last three years before and *(b)* after the entry into force of the provisions of the European Arrest Warrant; and if he will make a statement. [317727]

Meg Hillier: Prior to 1 January 2004, extradition requests from prosecutors in England and Wales to other jurisdictions were sent via the Home Office. Since 1 January 2004, when the European arrest warrant (EAW) came into force, the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (for EAWs concerning Scotland) are the designated authorities for the receipt and transmission of EAWs in the UK.

(a) To collate this data would involve a manual examination of all records from 2001 onwards and would incur disproportionate cost. However, in "The Law on Extradition: A Review", published by the Home Office in March 2001 the then Home Secretary explained that in 2000, surrenders to the UK of persons who did not consent to extradition took an average of 10 months to complete. This does not include those surrendered to Scotland or Northern Ireland.

(b) It is not possible from SOCA current systems to provide data broken down into the time taken to secure transfer to UK jurisdiction of an alleged criminal from each member state of the European Union therefore an average time cannot be calculated. This would require a manual examination of all files and incur disproportionate cost.

However, a report by the European Commission published in May 2009 found that contested EAWs executed by EU member states had taken an average of 43 days to complete.

Asylum

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people of each country of origin were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused asylum in each quarter of (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009; and if he will make a statement. [317198]

Mr. Woolas: Due to the quantity of data requested, the full response has been placed in the Library.

The data have previously been published on the Home Office website as provisional data in the following publications:

Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary (Q2 2008 to Q3 2009)

Quarterly Asylum Statistics (Q1 2007 to Q1 2008).

Data for Q1 2007 to Q4 2008, in the tables placed in the Library, have been updated from the provisional data contained in the above publications to reflect the latest available figures, as a result of data cleansing and updating of the administrative database. Data for 2008 remains provisional.

Provisional data for quarter four 2009 will be available in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary Q4 2009, due to be published on 25 February 2010. These will be available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Biometrics: Post Offices

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which post office branches are equipped to allow customers to enrol their biometrics; and which post office branches are planned to be equipped to allow customers to enrol their biometrics in each of the next five years. [318771]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 25 February 2010]:* The UK Border Agency has entered into contract with Post Office Ltd. for a pilot scheme to enrol biometrics for migrants who are required to apply for an identity card. 17 post offices are taking part in the pilot as follows:

Battersea
Beckenham
Camden
Earls Court
Old Street (London EC1)
Beeston
Bracknell
Cambridge
Durham
Kingstanding (Birmingham)
Middleton (Manchester)
Oxford
Redditch
Romsey
Stamford
South Shields
Union Street (Aberdeen).

The contract allows for a further eight post offices to be added in 2010-11 but to date no decision has been made on extending the contract.

An Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) notice was published in December 2009, which notified the market of the Identity and Passport Service's (IPS) intention to commence a competition to award the biometric enrolment concession to potential partners. The outcome of this competition will determine who will provide these services, and how many biometric enrolment outlets will be provided across the UK. IPS's current arrangement with the Post Office does not involve biometric enrolment.

Crime Prevention: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on preventing *(a)* re-offending and *(b)* antisocial behaviour in 2008-09; and how much it plans to spend for each such purpose in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [318113]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office spent £145,700,000 in 2008-09 in England and plans to spend £155,000,000 in 2009-10 in England and Wales on specific programmes to prevent re-offending including the Drugs Intervention Programme, Integrated Offender Management and Prolific and other Priority Offender (PPO) Programme. Spending on specific programmes to prevent anti-social behaviour was £818,000 in 2008-9 and planned to be £1,977,000 in 2009-10.

A number of specific and individual Home Office grants have now been combined into area based grant (ABG), which is allocated to local authorities on a three-year basis to maximise stability and certainty. The receiving authorities have flexibility to use ABG as they see fit to deliver local, regional and national priorities in their respective areas. The position in Wales is slightly different, whereby the funding for community safety partnerships has been consolidated into the crime reduction and antisocial behaviour national resource grant. In both England and Wales, it is for local partnerships to agree how the grants received should be allocated against locally determined priorities, including antisocial behaviour.

Final allocations for 2010-11 have yet to be confirmed, and budgets for 2011-12 will be the subject of a future allocations exercise.

Crime: Foreigners

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals given leave to remain in the UK since 1997 have been convicted of a serious crime. [316012]

Mr. Woolas: Identifying the number of foreign nationals given leave to remain since 1997 who have also been convicted of a serious crime, can be achieved only by reviewing individual case files, this would be at disproportionate cost.

The UK Border Agency removed or deported approximately 11,000 foreign national offenders in 2008 and 2009. Of these, less than 0.002 per cent. had at some stage previously been granted indefinite leave to remain and subsequently been convicted of a serious crime such as manslaughter or rape.

The information provided is internal management information and, as such, subject to change.

Crimes of Violence: Bookmakers

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with representatives of police forces on the incidence of attacks on bookmakers. [318679]

Mr. Hanson: The Government take tackling all forms of robbery seriously. Following a number of robberies of bookmakers in November and December 2009 my officials have made contact with Northamptonshire Police and other forces who have confirmed that these serious offences are being dealt with as a matter of priority.

Disabled Departmental Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the executive agencies for which he is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in (i) his Department and (ii) the executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [317897]

Mr. Woolas: Table 1 provides information for the Home Office and its agencies on the numbers and proportion of staff who are disabled. Table 2 provides the median average salaries of disabled and non-disabled staff.

The information provided is based on data collated by the Office of National Statistics for 31 March 2009.

Table 1: Headcount and proportion of disabled staff in the Home Office[1]

Department	*Disabled*	*Disabled employees as percentage of known disability status*
Home Office		
Home Office (excl. agencies)[2]	120	4.5
UK Border Agency	1,020	6.0
Criminal Records Bureau	20	3.0
Identity and Passport Service[3]	—	—

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

[2] Includes Government office for the regions employees.

[3] The Identity and Passport Service declarations are extremely low so their data have not been included.

Table 2: Median earnings by disability[1,2]

	Full-time		*Part-time*	
Department	*Disabled staff*	*Non-disabled*	*Disabled staff*	*Non-disabled*
Home Office				
Home Office (excl agencies)	26,750	32,220	18,380	25,360
UK Border Agency	21,840	21,840	20,550	21,320
Criminal Records Bureau	17,420	19,830	[1]—	17,560
Identity and Passport Service[3]	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, numbers less than five are represented by "[1]—".

[2] Salaries in this table represent the full-time equivalent salaries of employees rounded to the nearest 10.

[3] The Identity and Passport Service declarations are extremely low so their data have not been included.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost had been of the Heavy Hitter Programme Delivery Director service deployed in his Department on the latest date for which figures are available; on which IT projects each consultant contracted under that service worked; and what payments have been made to each such consultant for work undertaken in connection with the programme. [318110]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office has no involvement in the Heavy Hitter programme. Previous involvement in this programme was based in parts of the Home Office that transferred to the Ministry of Justice on its establishment in 2007.

Departmental NDPBs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how many non-departmental public bodies his Department is responsible. [314256]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the number of non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) sponsored by my Department is published in the annual Cabinet Office report—Public Bodies. Public Bodies 2008 is available online at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/ndpb

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House. Public Bodies 2009 will be published shortly.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years. [316462]

Mr. Woolas: 15 employees within the Home Department (excluding its agencies) had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more years between June 2007 and September 2009. At September 2009 3,033 staff were employed by the Home Department (excluding its agencies).

The Department has not been able to analyse three full years' data as data are available only from 1 July 2007 to 30 September 2009 (2.25 years).

Deportation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deportations have not been completed in the last five years. [317582]

Alan Johnson: Since 2007, approximately 3,500 removal directions have been initially unsuccessful (incomplete). The reason for this will vary but will include for example the late lodging of a judicial review or a claim for asylum or the receipt of further representations requiring consideration prior to removal. Where such an initial direction has not been completed, the UKBA has, in over 95 per cent. of cases, already reset the removal direction and removed the person.

Accurate figures relating to before 2007 are not available electronically and could only be obtained by investigating individual case-files. This would incur a disproportionate cost.

This information is taken from internal management information systems and is subject to change.

Entry Clearances

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the cost to businesses of the removal from eligibility for the visa waiver scheme of those who have previously been arrested. [318227]

Mr. Woolas: An estimate of cost to the business will be achieved only at disproportional cost.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of entry clearance applications for settlement in the United Kingdom submitted to the British consulate in Tel Aviv were granted prior to the transfer of the processing of such applications to the British embassy in Istanbul; what percentage of applicants were of *(a)* a Jewish and *(b)* a non-Jewish background; and if he will make a statement. [318460]

Mr. Woolas: Prior to the transfer of processing entry clearance applications to the British embassy in Istanbul on 7 April 2008, 98 per cent. of entry clearance applications for settlement made at the British consulate in Tel Aviv were granted in the financial year of 2007-08.

A breakdown of this figure to show comparisons for applicants with Jewish and non-Jewish backgrounds is not captured in our database.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of applications for entry clearance to the United Kingdom submitted to the British consulate in Tel Aviv between June 2008 and May 2009 and processed by the British embassy in Istanbul was granted; how many such applications there were; what percentage of applicants were of *(a)* a Jewish and *(b)* a non-Jewish background; and if he will make a statement. [318461]

Mr. Woolas: Between June 2008 and May 2009, 1,559 applications for entry clearance were submitted to the British consulate in Tel Aviv and processed by the British embassy in Istanbul. 84 per cent. of these applications were granted.

A breakdown of this figure to show comparisons for applicants with Jewish and non-Jewish backgrounds is not captured in our database.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of current Tier 4 sponsors in each category who will be accepted onto the new Highly Trusted Sponsor List. [317154]

Mr. Woolas: It is not possible to estimate of the number of current Tier 4 sponsors in each category who will be accepted onto the Highly Trusted Sponsor List as the criteria is still being finalised. The criteria will be published in advance of 6 April implementation.

Immigration Controls

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to publish the Government's response to the Migration Advisory Committee's report on Tier 1 of the points-based immigration system. [315508]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 4 February 2010]:* The Government will respond to the Migration Advisory Committee review of Tier 1 shortly.

Islam

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the number of radicalised Muslims resident in the UK. [318226]

Mr. Hanson: Radicalisation may cover a range of beliefs and attitudes. It is not possible to provide this information. Our Prevent strategy supports individuals who are vulnerable to recruitment to violent extremism or terrorism, building on existing multi-agency support mechanisms at a local level.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the number of radicalised Muslims resident in the UK in each year since 1997. [318334]

Mr. Hanson: Radicalisation may cover a range of beliefs and attitudes and it is not possible to provide the information requested. Our Prevent strategy supports individuals who are vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremism and terrorism, building on existing multi-agency support mechanisms at a local level.

Members' Correspondence

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letters sent to him on 10 November and 2 December 2009 by the right hon. Member for Tonbridge and Malling on his constituent Mr. Ryan Baird and Mr Baird's family. [311941]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 21 January 2010]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 9 February 2010 in response to his letters of 10 November 2009 and 2 December 2009.

Police: Avon and Somerset

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were employed by Avon and Somerset Constabulary of each (a) grade and (b) sex at the start of each year since 1997; and whether the appointment was (i) full- and (ii) part-time in each such case. [318496]

Mr. Hanson: The available data are provided in the tables.

This and other related data are published annually as part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Police officer strength, by rank, in Avon and Somerset, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2009[1, 2, 3]

	ACPO			Chief Superintendent[4]			Superintendent[4]			Chief Inspector		
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total
1997	[5]—	[5]—	4	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[5]—	[5]—	29	[5]—	[5]—	43
1998	[5]—	[5]—	3	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[5]—	[5]—	27	[5]—	[5]—	39
1999	[5]—	[5]—	4	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[5]—	[5]—	23	[5]—	[5]—	39
2000	[5]—	[5]—	3	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[5]—	[5]—	21	[5]—	[5]—	37
2001	[5]—	[5]—	4	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[5]—	[5]—	20	[5]—	[5]—	33
2002	[5]—	[5]—	3	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[5]—	[5]—	23	[5]—	[5]—	34
2003	4	0	4	14	0	14	10	0	10	37	1	38
2004	4	0	4	15	0	15	14	0	14	36	3	39
2005	5	0	5	11	0	11	17	0	17	38	3	41
2006	5	0	5	12	0	12	19	0	19	40	2	42
2007	4	0	4	12	1	13	21	0	21	46	1	47
2008	5	0	5	13	0	13	18	2	20	48	1	49
2009	6	0	6	11	1	12	21	1	22	50	1	51

	Inspector			Sergeant			Constable			Total		
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total
1997	[5]—	[5]—	144	[5]—	[5]—	454	[5]—	[5]—	2,315	[5]—	25	2,989
1998	[5]—	[5]—	150	[5]—	[5]—	449	[5]—	[5]—	2,308	[5]—	39	2,976
1999	[5]—	[5]—	152	[5]—	[5]—	452	[5]—	[5]—	2,329	[5]—	57	2,999
2000	[5]—	[5]—	148	[5]—	[5]—	441	[5]—	[5]—	2,285	[5]—	72	2,934
2001	[5]—	[5]—	142	[5]—	[5]—	441	[5]—	[5]—	2,321	[5]—	73	2,960
2002	[5]—	[5]—	150	[5]—	[5]—	457	[5]—	[5]—	2,428	[5]—	93	3,096
2003	158	2	160	475	8	483	2,399	90	2,489	3,097	101	3,198
2004	170	0	170	481	13	494	2,618	107	2,725	3,338	123	3,461
2005	165	0	165	486	16	502	2,586	120	2,706	3,308	139	3,447
2006	158	0	158	478	16	494	2,635	130	2,765	3,347	148	3,495
2007	160	0	160	512	22	534	2,561	148	2,709	3,316	172	3,488
2008	171	0	171	495	22	517	2,537	156	2,693	3,287	181	3,468
2009	174	1	175	485	24	509	2,470	181	2,651	3,217	209	3,426

[1] Figures for 1997 to 2002 are not comparable with figures for 2003 to 2009. Figures for 1997 to 2002 exclude officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave, while figures for 2003 to 2009 include officers on maternity/paternity leave. The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. Total figures for 1997 to 2002 are shown as full-time equivalent (rounded to the nearest whole number), while total figures for 2003 to 2009 are shown as headcount.

[2] Full-time and part-time figures are shown as headcount.

[3] Part-time, full-time and headcount figures broken down by rank are not available for 1997 to 2002. Therefore total figures have been shown as full-time equivalent. Total part-time figures are available for this period.

[4] In 1997 to 2002 figures for Chief Superintendents and Superintendents were combined. These have been shown under Superintendent. For 2003 to 2009 these figures have been shown separately.

[5] Not available.

[6] Not applicable.

Police officer strength, by gender, in Avon and Somerset, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2009[1, 2, 3]

	Male			Female			Total		
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total
1997	[4]—	1	2,622	[4]—	24	367	[4]—	25	2,989
1998	[4]—	0	2,586	[4]—	39	390	[4]—	39	2,976
1999	[4]—	1	2,588	[4]—	56	412	[4]—	57	2,999
2000	[4]—	3	2,520	[4]—	69	414	[4]—	72	2,934
2001	[4]—	1	2,530	[4]—	72	430	[4]—	73	2,960
2002	[4]—	3	2,601	[4]—	90	495	[4]—	93	3,096
2003	2,639	5	2,644	458	96	554	3,097	101	3,198
2004	2,780	10	2,790	558	113	671	3,338	123	3,461
2005	2,737	12	2,749	571	127	698	3,308	139	3,447
2006	2,711	11	2,722	636	137	773	3,347	148	3,495
2007	2,647	12	2,659	669	160	829	3,316	172	3,488
2008	2,593	10	2,603	694	171	865	3,287	181	3,468
2009	2,536	12	2,548	681	197	878	3,217	209	3,426

[1] Figures for 1997 to 2002 are not comparable with figures for 2003 to 2009. Figures for 1997 to 2002 exclude officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave, while figures for 2003 to 2009 include officers on maternity/paternity leave. The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. Total figures for 1997 to 2002 are shown as full-time equivalent (rounded to the nearest whole number), while total figures for 2003 to 2009 are shown as headcount.

[2] Full-time and part-time figures are shown as headcount.

[3] Full-time and headcount figures broken down by gender are not available for 1997 to 2002. Therefore total figures have been shown as full-time equivalent.

[4] Not available.

Police: Pay

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* median and *(b)* mean salary of a police constable in each constabulary was in (i) nominal and (ii) real terms in each year since 1997. [318689]

Mr. Hanson: This information is not held centrally.

Police: Recruitment

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were recruited in each month of the last two years. [318910]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 26 February 2010]:* The available data are provided in the table. Figures are not collated on a monthly basis. Therefore, quarterly figures have been provided.

The total number of joiners on an annual basis and other related data are published annually as part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Police officer joiners, England and Wales, 2007-08 and 2008-09

Financial year	*Quarter*	*Total*
2007-08	Q1	1,416
	Q2	1,921
	Q3	1,923
	Q4	2,721
	Total	7,981
2008-09	Q1	1,960
	Q2	2,441
	Q3	2,175
	Q4	3,297
	Total	9,873

Notes:

1. Quarterly figures are provisional and have not been verified by forces.
2. Figures include the following types of joiners: 'Standard Direct', 'Rejoining', 'Previously Special Constable' and 'Transfer'.
3. This table contains full-time equivalent figures for the 43 forces of England and Wales. They have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Reoffenders

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persistent and prolific offenders have been identified in *(a)* total and *(b)* each police force area in each of the last five years. [317767]

Alan Johnson: The information requested is set out in the table. This shows the total number of offenders, by police force area, who were classified as prolific and other priority offenders in each of the years since the prolific and other priority offender programme was launched in September 2004. The table shows the total number of offenders who had been classified during each full 12-month period. Some offenders would have been classified as prolific and other priority offenders during the course of the years shown, and others de-classified during the years shown, in accordance with local selection and de-selection criteria. At any given time, the total number of offenders classified as prolific and other priority offenders across England and Wales is between 10,000 and 11,000 offenders.

The published evaluation of the prolific and other priority offender programme in 2004 showed that the offenders first taken on to the programme in September and October 2004 reduced their convictions by 62 per cent. over their first 17 months on the programme.

Table: Number of prolific and other priority offenders 2005-06 to 2008-09

Police force area	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Avon and Somerset	321	288	303	347
Bedfordshire	141	170	168	140
Cambridgeshire	120	115	209	206
Cheshire	267	232	248	240
City of London	11	14	20	18
Cleveland	190	195	204	211
Cumbria	88	102	102	111
Derbyshire	641	468	447	426
Devon and Cornwall	580	543	474	409
Dorset	309	93	107	102
Durham	91	82	116	123
Dyfed Powys	134	110	100	109
Essex	298	350	292	326
Gloucestershire	114	133	137	147
Greater Manchester	1,501	1,267	1,491	1,500
Gwent	136	115	110	110
Hampshire	318	362	425	407
Hertfordshire	347	264	239	226
Humberside	254	281	295	336
Kent	779	666	561	371
Lancashire	615	499	498	567
Leicestershire	616	499	562	447
Lincolnshire	221	321	175	125
Merseyside	648	583	583	503
Metropolitan police	1,542	1,487	1,525	1,408
Norfolk	170	199	157	138
North Wales	247	120	148	156
North Yorkshire	129	112	143	135
Northamptonshire	266	245	337	303
Northumbria	311	276	342	308
Nottinghamshire	750	815	874	788
South Wales	277	253	298	396
South Yorkshire	625	319	335	358
Staffordshire	258	341	364	314
Suffolk	214	209	190	174
Surrey	553	293	247	215
Sussex	542	528	528	499
Thames Valley	507	509	467	423
Warwickshire	108	119	132	142
West Mercia	204	165	159	161
West Midlands	1,036	991	1,043	986
West Yorkshire	434	390	652	631
Wiltshire	94	98	97	84
Total number of PPOs	17,007	15,221	15,904	15,126

Terrorism

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Irish people extradited to the UK from the US were subsequently convicted of an offence related to terrorism in the last 30 years. [317189]

Meg Hillier: Neither the Home Office nor any other agency involved in the extradition process has extradition records dating back 30 years. From an inspection of surviving records, however—some of which go back to 1994—no trace can be found of any such cases.

Terrorism: Stop and Search

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people under the age of 21 years have *(a)* been stopped by the police whilst taking photographs and *(b)* subsequently had photography equipment seized in connection with terrorism offences in the last 12 months; [315434]

(2) how many people under the age of 21 years have been stopped by the police in connection with terrorism offences in the last five years. [315435]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office does not hold statistics which are recorded in this way. However, the Home Office does collate statistics on the number of terrorism arrests and convictions and these are included in a Bulletin published for the first time on 13 May 2009 (Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008). The first edition of the Bulletin is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0409.pdf

The second issue of the Bulletin was published on 26 November 2009 and is available via the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1809.pdf

The third issue of this bulletin was published on 25 February 2010.

UK Border Agency

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals' files were recorded as temporarily lost by the UK Border Agency as of 1 January 2010. [318280]

Mr. Woolas: By definition, the exact number of lost files cannot be known however the total number of the agency's case files which are not currently recorded with a clear location is less than 0.18 per cent. of the overall file holding.

UK Border Agency: Empty Property

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Monmouth of 7 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 528W, on UK Border Agency: empty property, how many empty *(a)* dwellings and *(b)* business premises for which the UK Border Agency is responsible were empty in 2008-09. [314958]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is as follows:

(a) In 2008-09 the UK Border Agency had contracts with 18 suppliers providing accommodation for asylum seekers. The Agency only pay for asylum accommodation on a per person per night basis and do not have any liability for empty dwellings.

(b) In 2008-09 the Agency had in the region of 200 properties of which five were empty once occupation had ended or six if separate floors of one are counted individually. Of the six properties two leases have already ended, two will expire within the next three months and one has lease expiry in 18 months. Overall the Agency has benefited from reduced property, IT and productivity gains from rationalisation that outweigh the costs on these buildings.

Vetting: Radicalism

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions applications for employment in *(a)* the Home Office, *(b)* the Metropolitan Police, *(c)* MI5 and *(d)* MI6 have not passed vetting procedures due to (i) suspected al-Qaida sympathies and (ii) other suspected extremist views in each year since 1997. [318338]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office does not hold a central record of the number of applications for employment that have not passed beyond vetting procedures and it would be of disproportionate cost to assemble such a record.

The Metropolitan Police is responsible for its own vetting, I understand that the Metropolitan Police do not hold a central record and that it would be of disproportionate cost to assemble such a record.

In relation to the Security Service (MI5) and the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6), the policy of successive Governments is not to answer questions of detail about them.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Cold Weather Payments

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will take steps to reduce the time taken to make cold weather payments to *(a)* recipients who use prepayment meters and *(b)* other recipients of such payments. [310547]

Helen Goodman: The overwhelming majority of cold weather payments are paid automatically. When the Department for Work and Pensions is notified of a qualifying cold weather period a computer scan is run over the following weekend. Payments are made into customer's bank accounts on the following Wednesday. The only exception to this is where the Department is notified on a Friday. In these cases the scan will not be run on the weekend immediately following but will be picked up the next weekend. This is considered a reasonable period to prevent hardship.

Council Tax Benefits

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects to rename council tax benefit as council tax rebate. [318808]

Helen Goodman: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 11 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 652W, to my right hon. Friend the Member for Enfield, North (Joan Ryan).

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employment tribunals relating to her Department were held in each of the last five years; and what the cost to her Department was of such tribunals in each such year. [309938]

Jonathan Shaw: Because employment litigation for the DWP is conducted both in-house and by agents acting on behalf of the Department, the information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Future Jobs Fund

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs have been created under the Future Jobs Fund by social enterprises. [315108]

Jim Knight: We have only collected details of the number of social enterprise jobs we have agreed to fund in September to November 2009, covering the first six months of funding. In this period we have agreed to fund 1,200 jobs in Social Enterprises through the Future Jobs Fund.

Leasehold: Service Charges

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what forms of financial support her Department offers to low income lease holders facing major works service charges; what criteria are used to assess eligibility for such support; and what the total monetary value was of such support granted to each local authority in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10 to date. [318218]

Helen Goodman: Leaseholders who are responsible for meeting major service charges under the terms of a long lease may receive assistance by way of Support for Mortgage Interest. Help may be provided towards certain service charges related to the fabric of the accommodation or towards the mortgage interest on a loan taken out to meet specific loans for repairs and improvements, provided they are entitled to an income related benefit such as income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-related employment and support allowance and state pension credit.

The total monetary value for service charges are not recorded on the Department's computer system in a way which allows the information requested to be readily made available.

Maximus Employment and Training UK: Employment

Mr. Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the rate of employment has been among people undertaking programmes provided under contract to her Department by Maximus Employment and Training UK in Eastleigh since the inception of each such contract. [317015]

Jim Knight: Maximus Employment and Training UK has delivered progress2work provision in Eastleigh since 1 June 2009, on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions. Progress2work is a service for people who are recovering from misusing drugs and can give the extra support needed to get back into work.

Data are not made publicly available by individual provider, nor by individual location.

Miners: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding her Department has provided in assistance for ex-miners in Hemsworth constituency in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [316748]

Helen Goodman: The information requested is not available.

New Deal Schemes

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary contracted and *(b)* sub-contracted employment support providers have withdrawn/providing employment support services under the Flexible New Deal in each of the smallest geographical units for which figures are available since the programme's inception; and if she will make a statement. [307819]

Jim Knight: Since the Flexible New Deal Phase 1 contracts went live on 5 October 2009, none of the prime providers have withdrawn from delivery. In addition, the Department has not been informed of the withdrawal of any of their sub-contractors.

Occupational Pensions: Regulation

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the compatibility of the penalty regime for employers in the Pensions Act 2008 with the recommendations of the Hampton Review of Regulation. [318495]

Angela Eagle: The Government's development of the penalty regime for employers in the Pensions Act 2008 included a thorough assessment of its compatibility with the recommendations of Sir Philip Hampton's 2005 review, 'Reducing administrative burdens: effective inspection and enforcement'. Equal consideration was also given to the penalty principles set out by Professor Richard B. Macrory when building on Hampton's work specifically in the context of sanctions in his report 'Regulatory Justice: Making Sanctions Effective' (November 2006). We believe the regime of fixed and escalating penalties in the 2008 Act is fully compatible with the recommendations and principles of both the Hampton and Macrory reports.

Pensioners: Poverty

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent steps her Department has taken to eradicate pensioner poverty; [319024]

(2) what representations she has received on the establishment of a formal target for the eradication of pensioner poverty. [319025]

Angela Eagle: Our strategy since 1997 has been to rget help on the poorest pensioners while providing a lid foundation of support for all.

We have a good track record of reducing pensioner overty. In 2007-08 there were 900,000 fewer pensioners relative poverty than in 1998-99 (measured as below) per cent. of contemporary median income after ousing costs). Today's pensioners are less likely to be ving in relative poverty after housing costs than the opulation as a whole.

In 1997, the poorest pensioners, who received Income upport, lived on around £69 a week (equivalent to £98 week in today's prices). Today pension credit ensures at no pensioner needs to live on less than £130 a week r £198.45 a week for couples). This represents an icrease in income by almost a third in real terms. And any of those on pension credit will also be entitled to dditional support through housing benefit and council ax benefit.

The Pension, Disability and Carers Service continue o promote take-up of benefits for those entitled. This nvolves data matching to identify entitled non-recipients, ome visits for vulnerable customers, targeted local arketing and media campaigns, a simple claim process nvolving telephones as well as paper claims and ever loser working with partner organisations. The Department s also looking at innovative ways of using information hat we already hold to make payments of pension redit more automatically to entitled non-recipients.

In the Pensions Act 2007, we made a commitment to ontinue to uprate the pension credit standard minimum guarantee at least in line with average earnings over the ong-term. The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has commented that without this, it is likely there would be ignificant increases in pensioner poverty in the future.

We have also made a commitment to re-link the uprating of the basic state pension to average earnings. Our objective, subject to affordability and the fiscal position, is to do this in 2012, but in any event by the end of the next Parliament at the latest. This will benefit almost 12 million pensioners.

The Government use a basket of three key thresholds of income, after housing costs, to measure pensioner poverty. The most commonly used figures relate to those with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, after housing costs. However, the Department does not have a commitment to eradicate pensioner poverty in the same way it does for child poverty.

The Work and Pensions Select Committee report on its inquiry into tackling pensioner poverty, which was published in July 2009, recommended that the Government should make its commitment to tackling pensioner poverty explicit and formally commit to eradicating pensioner poverty.

After fully considering this recommendation we do not believe that establishing a formal target for the eradication of pensioner poverty would be the right approach. It is entirely right that the Government should commit itself to the eradication of child poverty, but the context for pensioners is not the same. Pensioners' incomes are affected by the work, caring and saving that they have undertaken during their working lives. The Government believe that this "something for something" contributory principle, whereby people are rewarded for their positive engagement with society during their lives is a critical component of our system of support for older people. Through our pension reform we are putting in place a framework which will enable people to build up a decent pension from the state and provide a foundation for further saving. We need to make sure that our policies balance cost, poverty alleviation and maintaining incentives to save.

We believe that our reforms will achieve this balance and that our published Public Service Agreement, which explicitly commits to "Tackle poverty and to promote greater independence and well-being in later life", is the right framework for tackling pensioner poverty and we will continue to report progress against this indicator.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate she has made of the number of pensioners resident in Coventry South constituency to have been lifted out of poverty since 1997; [319027]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of pensioners lifted out of poverty in the UK since 1997. [319028]

Angela Eagle: The Government use a basket of three key thresholds of income, after housing costs, to measure pensioner poverty. The most commonly used figures relate to those with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, after housing costs.

Estimates of the number of pensioners who have been lifted out of poverty are not available, as each year different households are surveyed to produce low income statistics that are published in the Households Below Average Income series. However, information is available about the net change in the number of pensioners with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income.

These figures only allow a breakdown of the overall numbers in poverty at Government Office Region level. Therefore, information is available for the West Midlands Government Office Region, but not available for the Coventry South constituency. Three-year averages are used to report regional statistics as single-year estimates are subject to volatility. Figures are quoted to the nearest 100,000.

In the three-year period 1997-98 to 1999-2000 there were around 300,000 pensioners in the West Midlands with incomes below the 60 per cent contemporary median (equivalent to 28 per cent of pensioners in the region). The latest information relates to the period 2005-06 to 2007-08 in which there were around 200,000 pensioners in poverty (18 per cent).

Since 1997-2000, there has been a reduction of around 100,000 pensioners in the West Midlands Government Office Region with incomes below 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income. This equates to a 10 percentage point reduction in pensioner poverty.

At a national level, we do not need to use the three-year averages and can use the individual yearly figures. However, figures for 1997-98 cover Great Britain only, as Northern Ireland data did not become available until the following year.

In 1997-98 there were around 2.9 million pensioners in poverty in Great Britain, which equates to around 29 per cent. of all pensioners. The 2007-08 UK figures show that around 2.0 million pensioners were in poverty, equating to around 18 per cent.

Between 1997-98 and 2007-08 the number of pensioners with incomes below 60 per cent of the contemporary median income reduced by around 900,000.

Pensions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to paragraph 5.55 of Budget 2009, whether the 2.5 per cent. uprating of the basic state pension applies to recipients who deferred claiming their basic state pension at retirement age. [318070]

Angela Eagle: The proposed 2.5 per cent increase in the rate of the basic State Pension from April 2010 will not be applied to increments payable to those recipients who have deferred their State Pension. The Retail Prices Index showed that prices had fallen for the 12 months ending in September 2009. Given this evidence the Government have decided to maintain the value of increments at 2009-10 rates.

People with increments who deferred their State Pension for at least one year since 2005 get a State Pension that is 10.4 per cent. higher than if they had not deferred. They will also benefit from the 2.5 per cent. increase in the basic State Pension announced at the pre-Budget report. We are writing to every individual in receipt of State Pension with an uprating notification which clearly states that, while basic State Pension is increasing by 2.5 per cent., increments and additional pension are not.

In addition, the increase in the basic State Pension will be reflected in the value of increments being accrued by those who are currently deferring their State Pension.

Unemployment: Lone Parents

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents claimed jobseeker's allowance in each year since 1996. [316637]

Helen Goodman: From 24 November 2008, subject to certain exemptions and conditions, most lone parents with older children are no longer entitled to income support if they are only claiming it because they are a lone parent. Instead those able to work may claim jobseeker's allowance. These changes are being introduced for most lone parents in three stages. For those with a youngest child aged 12 or over, the change applies from 24 November 2008; for those with a youngest child aged 10 or over, from 26 October 2009; and for those with a youngest child aged seven, or over from 25 October 2010.

The available information is in the table.

Number of lone parent claimants of jobseeker's allowance in Great Britain: April 2005-November 2009

	Number
April 2005	6,985
May 2005	6,930
June 2005	6,995
July 2005	7,090
August 2005	7,135
September 2005	7,230
October 2005	7,045
November 2005	7,100
December 2005	7,170
January 2006	7,790
February 2006	8,010
March 2006	8,050
April 2006	7,780
May 2006	7,860
June 2006	7,900
July 2006	7,825
August 2006	7,855
September 2006	8,150
October 2006	7,915
November 2006	7,810
December 2006	7,705
January 2007	7,885
February 2007	7,985
March 2007	7,975
April 2007	7,790
May 2007	7,580
June 2007	7,565
July 2007	7,540
August 2007	7,570
September 2007	7,585
October 2007	7,105
November 2007	6,510
December 2007	6,105
January 2008	6,415
February 2008	6,625
March 2008	6,850
April 2008	7,180
May 2008	7,260
June 2008	7,530
July 2008	7,770
August 2008	8,445
September 2008	8,915
October 2008	9,365
November 2008	10,385
December 2008	12,225
January 2009	14,660
February 2009	17,670
March 2009	21,095
April 2009	25,965
May 2009	30,830
June 2009	33,000
July 2009	34,835
August 2009	40,775
September 2009	45,425
October 2009	48,040

Number of lone parent claimants of jobseeker's allowance in Great Britain: April 2005-November 2009

	Number
November 2009	50,265

Notes:

1. Claimant Count: A monthly count of jobseeker's allowance claimants in Great Britain. Totals exclude non-computerised clerical claims.
2. Some jobseeker's allowance claimants have their marital status coded as "not known". Such claimants who are claiming child benefit for at least one child aged under 16 may be lone parents but are not recorded as such in the above table.
3. These volumes may be subject to retrospective changes as and when DWP receive updated child benefit data.
4. Identification of lone parents claiming JSA:

The preferred source of numbers on JSA is the Claimant Count which is produced on a monthly basis by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) via the NOMIS website:

www.nomisweb.co.uk

DWP are providing a breakdown of this headline number so we can identify the number of lone parents claiming JSA following the roll out of lone parent obligations. This is done using marital status information from the claimant count data alongside HMRC child benefit data. Specifically looking at whether a JSA claimant has their marital status recorded as "single"; "widowed"; "divorced" or "separated", and has an open child benefit claim for at least one child aged under 16, at the 'count date' (second Thursday of each month).

5. Data are not available prior to the introduction of these new statistics.

Experimental statistics: The new statistics will be labelled as an 'experimental' breakdown to the National Statistic status JSA Claimant Count. This label will remain until we are confident that we have a stable methodology and we have given users a chance to comment on the statistics.

Source:

ONS Claimant Count data and HMRC Child Benefit data.

Winter Fuel Payments: Aberdeenshire

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* households and *(b)* individuals have received winter fuel payments in Banff and Buchan constituency since 1 November 2009. [319347]

Angela Eagle: Information on winter fuel payments in Banff and Buchan for winter 2008-09 (the last year for which information is available) is held in the House of Commons Library.

Winter Fuel Payments: Angus

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* households and *(b)* individuals in Angus constituency have received a winter fuel payment since 1 November 2009. [318800]

Angela Eagle: Information on winter fuel payments in Angus for winter 2008-09 (the last year for which information is available) is held in the House of Commons Library.

Winter Fuel Payments: Dundee

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* households and *(b)* individuals in the Dundee East constituency have received winter fuel payments since 1 November 2009. [319602]

Angela Eagle: Information on winter fuel payments in Dundee, East for winter 2008-09 (the last year for which information is available) is held in the House of Commons Library.

Winter Fuel Payments: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* households and *(b)* individuals in each London borough have received winter fuel payments since 1 November 2009; and if she will make a statement. [319059]

Angela Eagle: Information on winter fuel payments in each London borough for winter 2008-09 (the last year for which information is available) is held in the House of Commons Library.

Winter Fuel Payments: Moray

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* households and *(b)* individuals resident in Moray constituency have received winter fuel payments since 1 November 2009. [319673]

Angela Eagle: Information on winter fuel payments in Moray for winter 2008-09 (the last year for which information is available) is held in the House of Commons Library.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Online Gaming Industry

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of the online betting and gaming industry to the economy. [318857]

Margaret Hodge: We have not made any formal assessment of the contribution of the online betting and gaming industry to the economy.

However the Government do recognise the many ways in which the industry contributes to the UK economy through taxation, employment, sponsorship and consumer choice.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many receptions he has hosted for representatives of print and broadcast media since October 2008; how much each such reception cost; and how many people attended each such reception; [319148]

(2) how many receptions he plans to host for representatives of print and broadcast media in 2010. [319149]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have held three receptions for journalists covering the Department's sectors since October 2008. The costs of these were £1,864.54, £1,251.25 and £1,431.70. Approximately 50 people attended each event.

No receptions are currently planned, but will be considered over the course of the year as part of normal departmental business.

Gaming Machines: Taxation

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has plans to alter the tax arrangements which apply to stakes without prizes gaming machines. [319831]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has regular discussions with HM Treasury about a range of gambling issues. Plans relating to taxation are a matter for my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Horserace Totalisator Board

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent progress has been made in preparations for the sale of the Tote; and if he will make a statement. [319830]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government are preparing for the sale of the Tote in line with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's announcement on 12 October 2009.

The current intention is that a sale process would start in summer 2010 and be completed around March 2011.

ITV: Local Broadcasting

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had on ITV's proposals for regional news. [318852]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have had a number of discussions with ITV and other interested organisations during the past year on the future of regional news on Channel 3 and the Government's policy objective to secure this news through independently funded news consortia.

Listed Events Review

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what account will be taken of the BBC Strategic Review in assessing the results of the consultation on the David Davies Review of Listed Events. [319787]

Mr. Bradshaw: I will consider all relevant issues emerging from the consultation before reaching a final decision.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 665W, on sports: television, whether he has plans to commission independent advice for the purposes of his economic impact assessment. [319837]

Mr. Bradshaw: The evidence received in response to the Government's statutory consultation on Free-to-Air Listed Events will form the basis of an economic impact assessment. The Government are in the process of commissioning an independent economic consultancy to take forward this work.

Radio Frequencies

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the frequency to be used by commercial radio stations following digital switchover; and if he will make a statement. [319201]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department has held two local radio summits with the commercial radio representative body, RadioCentre, and is in discussion with broadcasters from across the UK to consider the impact of Digital Radio Switchover on local commercial radio stations.

Scottish Television

Mr. Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has undertaken an assessment of the likely effects of reclassification of Scottish Television as an independent producer on the provision of public service broadcasting by the existing Scottish independent sector. [318614]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government recently undertook a public consultation exercise on the potential reclassification of production companies owned by Channel 3 licence holders. This included an assessment of the impact of the proposal, including the impact on the independent sector. The Government are currently assessing the responses to the consultation.

Sports: Young People

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his policy is on the participation of young people in competitive sport. [318859]

Mr. Bradshaw: The annual School Sport Survey has shown a steady rise in the number of young people taking up competitive sport since 2003.

69 per cent. of pupils are now involved in intra-school competition compared to 22 per cent. in 2003/04; while 44 per cent. of pupils are now involved in inter-school competition compared to 33 per cent. in 2003/04.

Competitive sport is central to our PE and Sport Strategy for Young People and will also be enshrined in law as universal access to regular competitive sport is part of our new Pupil Guarantee.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Legacy: West Midlands

6. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what legacy is expected for the west midlands and Coventry from the London 2012 Olympics. [318884]

Tessa Jowell: Coventry South, the West Midlands and the whole of the UK will benefit from the sporting, economic and social opportunities created by the 2012 Games.

Three companies based in Coventry have secured contracts to supply goods or services within the London 2012 supply chain and 45 businesses registered in the West Midlands have won work supplying the Olympic Delivery Authority. 19 projects in the West Midlands have been awarded the Inspire Mark, for high-quality projects inspired by the Games.

Estimated Government Expenditure

7. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her most recent estimate is of Government expenditure on hosting the London 2012 Olympics. [318885]

Tessa Jowell: The £9.325 billion funding package that I announced in March 2007 remains unchanged.

The most recent estimate of the anticipated final cost was £7.262 billion, as reported in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Annual Report which was published in early February.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change: International Co-operation

Mr. Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Congleton of 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 628W, on climate change: Copenhagen, what his most recent assessment is of the likelihood of effective global action to limit climate change; and if he will make a statement. [318584][1]

Joan Ruddock: Since Copenhagen, we have seen support for the Copenhagen Accord grow. As of 22 February 2010, 69 countries had listed targets/actions in the Accord to limit their greenhouse gas emissions. These countries account for nearly 90 per cent. of global emissions. This willingness of many countries to take substantial domestic action, demonstrates that—with ambition—the international community has the opportunity to come together to tackle dangerous climate change effectively.

But there is still more to do. We must continue to encourage these countries to deliver the most ambitious end of their offers if we are to deliver our goal of limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius. And we will continue to campaign for countries to include these offers in a comprehensive legally binding treaty.

Departmental Energy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department plans to take to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. [319084]

Joan Ruddock: The Department supports Earth Hour. Both of our premises (in London and Aberdeen) will participate. We will also support Earth Hour through our website and social networking activities and will encourage staff to participate as individuals.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many designs for its website his Department has commissioned since its inception. [318653]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has commissioned one design for its website since inception. The design is that used by the Department's official corporate website which was launched on 23 February 2009:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many employees in his Department are in transition prior to being managed out; how long on average the transition window between notification and exit has been in his Department and its predecessors in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the salary costs of staff in transition in each such year; and what proportion of employees in transition were classed as being so for more than six months in each year. [313246]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change was formed on the 3 October 2008. To date, no staff have been placed in transition prior to being managed out.

Departmental Public Relations

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what public relations companies have had contracts with *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible since his Department was established. [317365]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has had contracts with Munro and Forster in 2008-09 and with The Forster Company in 2009-10, both of whom worked on the ACT ON CO_2 campaign.

DECC also has a contract with Kreab Gavin Anderson to provide expert advice on the impact of proposed policy changes on renewable finance and investment prospects, as well as a range of briefing, seminars, meetings and wider awareness raising with investors and trade media, on developments in renewable energy policy.

The Energy Saving Trust has had contracts with the following public relations companies: Positif Politics Ltd., Strategem and Weber Shandwick Public Affairs.

The Carbon Trust has had contracts with the following public relations agencies: Fishburn Hedges PR, Octopus Communications and Brands2Life, as well as Golley Slater PR in Wales and Smarts PR in Scotland.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days since its inception. [316466]

Joan Ruddock: The Department encourages a culture where good attendance is expected and valued. However, it recognises from time to time absences for medical reasons may be unavoidable. The Department aims to treat its staff who are ill with sympathy and fairness and where possible provide them with support which will enable them to recover their health and return to work.

No staff have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days since the Department's inception in October 2008.

Departmental Travel

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost of international travel by Ministers and officials in his Department has been since May 2009. [316793]

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[1] [*Official Report, 4 March 2010, Vol. 506, c. 15-16MC.*]

Joan Ruddock: Since May 2009 a total of £588,743 was spent on international travel by Ministers and officials.

Electricity

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much electricity has been supplied to *(a)* Stroud district and *(b)* Gloucestershire since 2003. [318976]

Mr. Kidney: Annual electricity consumption statistics for Stroud and the Gloucestershire area are available for the years 2005 to 2008 and are shown in the following table. The statistics include both domestic and non-domestic consumption and, as they are supplied to DECC by electricity suppliers, they are therefore a measure of the electricity supplied from the national grid.

	Annual electricity consumption (GWh) in:	
	(a) Stroud	*(b) Gloucestershire*[1]
2005	563.6	3,207.7
2006	586.8	3,301.3
2007	578.1	3,212.8
2008	569.7	3,144.0
Total (2005-08)	2,298.3	12,865.9

[1] Gloucestershire is defined here as comprising of the following local authorities: Cheltenham, Cotswold, Forest of Dean, Gloucester, Stroud and Tewkesbury.

Similar data are also available for 2003 and 2004. However there are methodological differences in the production of the datasets before 2005 and therefore the data for 2003 and 2004 are not directly comparable with the later datasets. The changes in methodology were recognised as improvements and as such the statistics from 2005 are classified as National Statistics. Details of all methodologies used to compile the statistics can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/regional/regional.aspx

Electricity: Prices

Sir Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what obligation electricity suppliers have to customers in respect of price when supplying electricity under Tariff B. [312841]

Mr. Kidney: Setting of prices, including the level of differential between peak and off-peak charges on an Economy 7 type tariff, is a commercial decision for the company concerned. It is for Ofgem to consider whether pricing is appropriate, and it can take action if it decides that it is not.

Gas and electricity suppliers currently have up to 65 working days to notify their customers that a price increase has taken place. We think it is unacceptable for customers to be informed of price rises so late. Ofgem has committed to consulting on the matter before Easter. We have also amended the Energy Bill during its passage through the House of Commons to include powers for the Government to set the period within which energy companies must inform customers of changes to their tariffs should Ofgem be unable to address the issue in a timely fashion.

Energy Saving Trust: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Wealden of 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 323W, on the Energy Saving Trust: advertising, how much the Energy Saving Trust spent on external public relations services in each of the last three years; and whether it has contracted the services of public affairs companies during that period. [315496]

Joan Ruddock: The EST have spent the following on external public relations services in each of the last three years and have contracted the services of public affairs companies during that period.

	Total (£)
2006-07	247,118
2007-08	104,791
2008-09	209,109

Government Departments: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many tonnes of equivalent carbon dioxide were offset by each member of the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund, according to outturn figures, in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 in respect of (i) domestic, (ii) short haul and (iii) long haul flights. [318345]

Joan Ruddock: The total figures for the Government Carbon Offsetting Facility are available on the DECC website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/lc_uk/co2_offsetting/gov_offsetting/gov_data/gov_data.aspx

The following table breaks these data down by domestic, short-haul and long-haul flights where DECC holds these data.

Where the total number of certified emissions reductions (CERs) purchased is higher than the sum of the domestic, short-haul and long-haul flights data, this is due to offsetting of other travel such as rail and road travel. One CER is equivalent to one tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Government Carbon Offsetting Facility—Phase 1 (April 2007 to March 2009): Purchases of Certified Emissions Reductions (CERs)

	CERs purchased under GCOF I by domestic, short-haul and long-haul						*Total CERs purchased*		
	Domestic		*Short-haul*		*Long-haul*				
Public sector organisation	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]	*Total*
British-American Parliamentary Group (BAPG)	—	—	—	—	42.95	75.24	42.95	75.24	118.19

Government Carbon Offsetting Facility—Phase I (April 2007 to March 2009): Purchases of Certified Emissions Reductions (CERs)

	CERs purchased under GCOF I by domestic, short-haul and long-haul						*Total CERs purchased*		
	Domestic		*Short-haul*		*Long-haul*				
Public sector organisation	*2007-08*	*2008-09[1]*	*2007-08*	*2008-09[1]*	*2007-08*	*2008-09[1]*	*2007-08*	*2008-09[1]*	*Total*
Cabinet Office (including No. 10 Downing street; 2006-07 Figures also include figures for 2005-06)	50.85	[2]—	3,386.95	[2]—	914.27	[2]—	4,352.07	4,500.00	8,852.07
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture (CEFAS)	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	190.00	190.00	380.00
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) (including Energy section of DECC from 3 October 2008)	512.97	[2]—	1,280.94	[2]—	4,135.27	[2]—	5,929.17	5,200.00	11,129.17
Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)	82.18	43.64	82.46	33.46	235.49	145.67	400.10	222.76	622.86
Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)	27.34	20.01	135.96	101.20	72.58	146.88	235.88	268.08	503.96
Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	350.00	350.00	700.00
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) (including the Climate Change section of DECC from 3 October 2008 onwards)	1,028.14	[2]—	1,137.56	[2]—	2,928.22	[2]—	5,093.92	5,100.00	10,193.92
Department for International Development (DFID)	677.28	705.25	1,796.76	681.10	15,670.98	20,659.02	18,145.10	22,123.38	40,268.48
Department for Transport (DFT)	192.43	194.75	375.90	227.85	718.83	900.43	1,287.16	1,323.03	2,610.19
Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)	2,169.95	2,055.25	297.64	250.51	321.62	455.61	2,789.21	2,761.37	5,550.58
Department of Health (DH)	114.71	[2]—	263.72	[2]—	539.77	[2]—	918.19	920.00	1,838.19
Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD)	1.06	[2]—	42.42	[2]—	147.43	[2]—	190.91	180.00	370.91
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) (for part of financial year 2007-08. 2006-07 was offset through a separate contract. The remainder of the 2007-08 and 2008-09 emissions will be offset through GCOF II)	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	26,598.89	[2]—	26,598.89
Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA)	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	1,969.80	2,125.00	4,094.80
Greater London Authority (GLA)	2.43	—	35.37	11.06	210.32	202.08	248.12	213.14	461.26
HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)	3,827.49	5,186.53	862.96	646.59	902.78	1,139.42	5,593.23	6,972.54	12,565.77
HM Treasury	435.01	[2]—	114.26	[2]—	339.57	[2]—	888.84	1,200.00	2,088.84
Home Office	858.58	815.31	739.61	633.61	1,466.25	1,489.51	3,064.44	2,938.43	6,002.87
House of Commons	291.02	310.02	490.81	296.46	991.17	999.83	1,773.00	1,606.31	3,379.31
House of Lords	49.34	64.70	114.39	65.80	155.65	156.98	319.38	287.48	606.86
Law Officer's Department (LOD)	17.59	40.12	100.98	82.11	470.64	709.34	589.21	900.56	1,489.77
London Development Agency (LDA)	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	75.00	75.00	150.00
Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)	—	390.47	4,308.86	789.80	2,492.89	5,654.20	6,499.73	6,783.47	13,283.20

Government Carbon Offsetting Facility—Phase I (April 2007 to March 2009): Purchases of Certified Emissions Reductions (CERs)

Public sector organisation	CERs purchased under GCOF I by domestic, short-haul and long-haul						Total CERs purchased		
	Domestic		Short-haul		Long-haul				
	2007-08	2008-09[1]	2007-08	2008-09[1]	2007-08	2008-09[1]	2007-08	2008-09[1]	Total
Ministry of Defence (MOD)	411.13	673.32	3,667.64	4,042.19	12,794.58	19,591.30	16,873.35	24,306.82	41,180.17
Ministry of Justice (MOJ) (including Department for Constitutional Affairs)	434.36	599.64	296.53	168.21	652.91	622.20	1,495.97	1,509.18	3,005.15
Northern Ireland Office (NIO)	552.40	582.53	27.71	18.64	59.54	49.48	639.64	650.65	1,290.29
Royal Household (RH)	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	5,452.47	4,688.00	10,140.47
Sustainable Development Commission (SDC)	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	151.36	151.36	302.72
The Rent Service (TRS)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transport for London (TFL)	15.13	4.38	316.24	165.91	540.67	463.35	872.04	633.65	1,505.69
Valuation Office Agency (VOA)	18.60	50.15	2.83	2.19	11.97	30.08	33.40	82.42	115.82
	—	—	—	—	—	—	113,062.53	98,337.87	211,400.40

[1] Payments made for 2008-09 were based on estimates to be reconciled with actual data published as part of the SDiG report. Any remaining differences will be purchased through GCOF II. This explains the difference between figures in 2008-09 and those published for the Cabinet Office at:
www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/225313/cabinetoffice2009.pdf_p106

[2] Only total purchase of CERs known.

[3] No flights offset—only road travel.

Notes on why total CERs purchased are sometimes different to sum of domestic, short-haul and long-haul flight emissions:

1. DEFRA, ECGD and DFID have purchased CERs to offset road and rail travel as well as air travel.
2. MOJ data broken down for air travel where possible. Some agencies of MOJ have estimated totals.
3. MPS total less than sum of domestic, short-haul and long-haul flights due to use of separate emissions factors for total.

Mr. Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which Departments *(a)* are and *(b)* are not on target to stay within their allocated carbon budget for 2009-10; and what assessment he has made of the reasons for which such budgets are likely to be exceeded. [318616]

Joan Ruddock: In common with UK carbon budgets, departmental carbon budgets are for five-year periods (2008-12, 2013-17 and 2018-22). We will be reporting on progress towards meeting the budgets in October in our response to the annual report from the Committee on Climate Change.

Housing: Energy

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department has taken to assist low income homeowners resident in properties without cavity walls to make their houses more energy efficient. [318814]

Mr. Kidney: Since 2002, through the Government's flagship tool for delivering household energy and carbon savings, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and its predecessors, over 6 million households have been helped with insulation measures with almost three million of these in a priority group of vulnerable households. Between April 2008 and June 2009 over 22,000 households received solid wall insulation measures. We are currently revising some of the delivery schemes (principally CERT) to ensure that household insulation work continues at increased rates to reach the target by December 2011.

The Department and National Energy Action (NEA) has begun a piloting exercise of external wall insulation for 100 park home properties. The pilot is expected to be completed in 2010. The pilot will assess the effectiveness of the insulation products against a variety of criteria, including cost of installation, energy savings and customer satisfaction.

The Government's Household Energy Management strategy, to be published shortly, will discuss how we are to meet our ambitious energy efficiency targets, including the delivery of measures such a solid wall insulation, and the need to address delivery in a fair way that takes account of the needs of the vulnerable and fuel poor.

Microgeneration: Certification

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the inspection requirement for the purposes of accreditation by BRE under the microgeneration certification scheme is based on paperwork. [318133]

Joan Ruddock: The proportion of time spent on inspection requirements for the Microgeneration Certifications Scheme (MCS) installer scheme varies from assessment to assessment, depending on the level and standard of quality management systems already in place.

BRE Global, along with other MCS certification bodies, look for evidence that an installer company meets MCS 001 which includes requirements to assess the Installation Quality Control (IQC). Written procedures, which need to be systematically followed in each installation, ensure that all MCS installations meet consistent standards.

MCS installer standards also require a certification body, such as BRE, to inspect an installation, e.g. a small wind turbine, to determine the competency of the installer company.

All the requirements of the MCS scheme for installer companies are set out at:

http://www.microgenerationcertification.org/Product+Manufacturers+and+Installers/Installers

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average cost to a microgeneration scheme installer of complying with the standards required by the microgeneration certification scheme. [318134]

Joan Ruddock: It is not possible to provide a meaningful average cost for MCS certification of installer companies, as the costs for installer companies to become certificated under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) are dependent on a number of factors.

Costs for installer companies relate to the fixed rates of the certification body undertaking the assessment; the number of technologies being assessed; the cost of training requirements and the amount of work a company needs to do to put in place quality control procedures.

There are additional costs relating to mandatory membership of an MCS consumer code which meets OFT requirements. There is also an annual MCS administration fee (£100). To ensure the ongoing robustness of the scheme and that standards are maintained, MCS installer companies are also subject to annual surveillance visits.

The fees charged by MCS certification bodies are published on their respective websites. For contact details of all MCS certification bodies see:

http://www.microgenerationcertification.org/Certification+Bodies

Stress

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of the advice issued to staff of his Department on stress recognition and management. [314522]

Joan Ruddock: DECC is finalising its own HR policies including stress recognition and management. Once DECC's policy is finalised, a copy will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Stroud Transition Train Group: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding his Department has allocated to the Stroud Transition Train Group to date; over what period such funding has been provided and for what purpose; and what mechanism is in place for monitoring and evaluating its effectiveness. [318901]

Joan Ruddock: The Department does not fund Stroud Transition Train Group.

Uranium: Mining

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 620, on uranium: mining, which respondents' concerns over the impact of uranium mining abroad led to him seeking further information on the safety of uranium mining; from which organisations and sources he sought further information; whether the contract placed with Integrated Decision Management followed a competitive tendering process; and what qualifications Integrated Decision Management demonstrated to show suitability to provide technical advice on this matter. [319166]

Mr. Kidney: All responses to the Government's consultation on the Nuclear Industry Association's application for the Regulatory Justification of new nuclear power station designs have been placed on the Department's website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/open/nuclear/nuclear.aspx

The further consultation on my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's proposed decisions that the AP1000 and EPR nuclear power station designs are Justified under the terms of the Justification of Practices Involving Ionising Radiation Regulations 2004 sets out the further information on the safety regime for uranium mining which he took into account.

The placing of a contract with Integrated Decision Management followed a competitive tendering process in which they and their partners the National Nuclear Laboratory demonstrated the ability to supply specialist technical support to help with the Regulatory Justification process.

Warm Front Scheme

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the average waiting time for the installation of *(a)* heating and *(b)* insulation under the Warm Front Scheme in (i) Chesterfield constituency, (ii) Derbyshire and (iii) England in each year since the scheme's inception. [319695]

Mr. Kidney: The following table provides information as to the average waiting time (in days) for the installation of *(a)* heating and *(b)* insulation measures under the Warm Front Scheme in (i) Chesterfield constituency, (ii) Derbyshire (iii) England in each year since eaga became the Scheme manager for this region.

	Waiting times for heating measured in days		
	Chesterfield	*Derbyshire*	*England*
2005-06	—	—	67.70
2006-07	—	—	74.48
2007-08	—	—	63.83
2008-09	—	—	57.24
2009-10	34.26	35.20	44.72

	Waiting times for insulation measured in days		
	Chesterfield	*Derbyshire*	*England*
2005-06	—	—	30.88
2006-07	—	—	29.46
2007-08	—	—	32.74
2008-09	—	—	23.34
2009-10	10.76	13.21	17.37

Note:
Waiting time data at a constituency and regional level is retained for 12 months only.

Warm Front Scheme: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent on the Warm Front programme in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each year since its inception; and what recent steps his Department has taken to (i) encourage take-up of energy efficiency measures and (ii) reduce the level of fuel poverty in Castle Point constituency. [318079]

Mr. Kidney: The following table shows how much has been spent in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point through Warm Front under the present phase of the scheme which began in 2005.

£

	Essex	*Castle Point*
2005-06	2,000,189.00	177,491.43
2006-07	6,182,784.13	598,284.01
2007-08	9,468,843.84	1,276,872.33
2008-09	12,165,333.14	1,695,775.39
2009-10[1]	8,274,213.56	1,039,361.96
Total	38,091,363.67	4,787,785.12

[1] Data run to 31 January 2010.

The Government have a strong package of measures to encourage the take-up of energy efficiency measures and help reduce fuel poverty among vulnerable households:

The ACT ON CO_2 campaign encourages energy efficiency in the home through the use of advertising (broadcast, online and press), digital media, outreach events, PR and partnerships with appropriate commercial organisations. Typically this promotion encourages a range of behaviours from simple actions like turning down thermostats, turning off electrical appliances fully and using energy efficient light bulbs to more substantial measures like loft and cavity wall insulation. The current burst of advertising on insulation launched on 11 January and will run to mid-March 2010.

Schemes such as Warm Front, Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP), and the Decent Homes Standard reduce the demand for energy by improving home energy efficiency.

CERT requires energy suppliers to meet at least 40 per cent. of their obligation by promoting and installing measures in the homes of a priority group of vulnerable consumers in receipt of qualifying benefits or people aged over 70 years. Measures are only reported at a GB level and details for the work carried out in Essex and Castle Point are therefore not available.

A regulatory framework has been introduced that: promotes competition as the main driver to ensure downward pressure on prices for consumers; improves licence conditions; and strengthens Ofgem's powers through the Energy Bill.

Measures such as the winter fuel payments and cold weather payments—alongside the wider tax and benefit system and through benefit entitlement checks (BECs) under the Warm Front Scheme—have raised real incomes. Since 2005, Warm Front has carried out almost 900 BECs in Castle point, identifying eligibility for a previously unclaimed benefit in over 350 households—leading to an average increase of £31.09p in weekly income.

We have also introduced legislation to implement mandated social price support schemes once the current voluntary agreement with suppliers comes to an end in 2011. These schemes will provide more of the most vulnerable consumers with help towards their energy costs. We have said that we are minded to focus the majority of the additional resources on older pensioner households on the lowest incomes as these households tend to have a high incidence of fuel poverty—over 50 per cent. of fuel poor households have a person over 60 living in them; their circumstances are relatively stable; and they are at the greatest risk of excess winter deaths.

The fuel poverty review which was announced in January 2009, has been looking across all three drivers of fuel poverty (income, energy prices and energy efficiency) and particularly the key issue of how we can more effectively identify and target assistance at the most vulnerable households.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applications from residents of *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point for (i) heating, (ii) insulation and (iii) heating and insulation measures under the Warm Front scheme were approved in each of the last three years. [318080]

Mr. Kidney: The following table provides information as to how many applications were approved in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point for (i) heating, (ii) insulation and (iii) heating and insulation measures under the Warm Front scheme for the previous three years and up to 31 January for the current year.

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]	*Total*
Essex					
Heating	1,442	1,806	1,848	1,814	7,863
Insulation	3,209	3,454	4,069	1,814	14,476
Heating and insulation	1,505	1,991	2,212	1,545	8,267
Castle Point					
Heating	166	268	285	213	923
Insulation	451	312	281	186	1,332
Heating and insulation	213	266	227	169	940

[1] Up to 31 January 2010.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point have received assistance under the Home Energy Efficiency scheme since the inception of that scheme. [318081]

Mr. Kidney: The operating name of the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme in England is Warm Front.

The following table shows how many households in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point have received assistance from Warm Front under the present phase of the Scheme (since 2005).

	Essex	*Castle Point*
2005-06	3,487	216
2006-07	7,022	881
2007-08	8,499	776
2008-09	9,809	968
2009-10[1]	6,399	693
Total	35,216	3,534

[1] Up to 31 January 2010.

Prior to 2005 these regions were under the control of a different Scheme Manager. The data retained by the present administrator are not sufficient to provide a consolidated response.

Wind Power

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the total output of UK's off-shore wind turbines, expressed as a proportion of their load factor, was in each week in January 2010. [318167]

Mr. Kidney: Total output figures for offshore wind are available only on an annual basis. The most recent data are for 2008, when offshore wind generation was 1,305 GWh. Data for wind generation as a whole, by major power producers, are collected monthly, with the latest data showing December 2009's generation as 572 GWh.

Load factors are defined as the average hourly quantity of electricity supplied during the year, expressed as a percentage of the average output capability at the beginning and end of the year. As such, these are only calculated on an annual basis, with the latest data for 2008 showing a load factor of 34.9 per cent.

TREASURY

Banks

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has agreed any instrument or facility whereby an investment bank has been authorised to trade in the securitisation of future public revenues not otherwise reported to Parliament. [318195]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* No such agreement has been entered into by the Department.

Banks: Redundancy

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many jobs in each *(a)* region and *(b)* county have been lost in total in Northern Rock and Bradford and Bingley since the Government acquired its stake in each; [318821]

(2) how many jobs in each *(a)* region and *(b)* county were lost in those banks in which UK Financial Investments Ltd. has a stake were lost in the last 12 months; [318822]

(3) how many jobs have been relocated offshore by Lloyds Banking Group in the period since the Government acquired its stake in the bank; and what discussions have taken place between *(a)* his Department and *(b)* UK Financial Investments Ltd. with Lloyds Banking Group on that matter. [318823]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government's investments in the Royal Bank of Scotland, Lloyds Banking Group, Northern Rock plc, Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc, and Bradford and Bingley plc are managed on a commercial and arm's-length basis by UK Financial Investments Limited.

Decisions about business operations remain the responsibility of the directors of those banks. It is a matter for each company's management to release specific business updates or provide any required disclosures in their audited annual report and accounts.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Binley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses have used the HM Revenue and Customs Business Payment Support Scheme in the last 12 months. [316858]

Mr. Timms: Since its introduction on 24 November 2008 the Business Payment Support Service (BPSS) has agreed around 292,000 Time To Pay arrangements (TTP) in the UK with businesses to spread tax payments of about £5 billion over an agreed period.

This has helped to support more than 160,000 businesses, the vast majority of whom are small and medium sized. Over 90 per cent. of the value of arrangements is being paid on time.

Between 1 February 2009 and 31 January 2010, 229,000 TTP agreements were made with customers via the BPSS.

Child Benefit

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many young people there are with non-resident parents who are legal migrants to the UK and who claim child benefit. [302375]

Mr. Timms: For information on awards of child benefit in respect of children living in other member states, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Bassetlaw (John Mann) on 13 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 787W.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs, *(c)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(d)* his Department's other agencies spent on font licensing in the last three years. [315284]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Spending on font licensing in the last three years was £14,268 for HM Treasury, £240 for HM Revenue and Customs and nil for the Valuation Office Agency and Debt Management Office.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many designs for its website his Department has commissioned since 2005. [318641]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No designs for the Department's website have been commissioned since 2005.

Departmental Plants

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies has spent on pot plants in 2009-10. [319196]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on spending in the current financial year will be available once the financial year has been completed and the Treasury's Resource Account has been audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Government Departments: Personal Records

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps have been taken to implement a cross-government change of circumstances service and a cross-government identity management system. [318844]

Mr. Byrne: Steps to implement a cross-government change of circumstances service and a cross-government identity management system were set out in the Government's document "Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government", page 24. This was published in December 2009 and is available at:

www.hmg.gov.uk/frontlinefirst.aspx

Income Tax

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the collection rate of income tax was in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the UK in each year since 2007. [317920]

Mr. Timms: Collection rates are normally calculated as the amount collected as a proportion of the amount billed (or charged). The balance will be either still being collected or will have been written-off as a loss. The majority of income tax is either deducted at source (i.e. via PAYE) or self-assessed via income tax self assessment (ITSA), so is never actually billed or charged and as such a collection rate measurement is not appropriate.

HM Revenue and Customs does publish figures on revenue losses in its Trust Statement which form part of its published accounts, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

Inheritance Tax: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue accrued to the Exchequer from inheritance tax on estates in Castle Point constituency in the last five years. [318099]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) estimate that around £400 million was received in inheritance tax receipts for the Government office region of east of England in 2007-08.

Information for other years or at a sub-regional level is currently available only at disproportionate cost because:

Inheritance tax data are based on a UK wide sample of cases which is designed to produce national level figures. The size of the sample means that HMRC cannot currently reliably estimate the number of taxpayers below a regional level; and

Postcodes are frequently missing from inheritance tax returns, and while the completion rate has improved to the point where analysis of the tax receipts on a regional basis can be carried out for 2007-08 this is not possible for earlier years.

Inheritance Tax: Na h-Eileanan an Iar

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue accrued to the Exchequer from inheritance tax on estates in Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency in the last five years. [318931]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs' Inheritance Tax receipts from Scotland are published by the Scottish Executive in Table 4.2 of their Government Expenditure and Revenue Scotland report, available at:

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/06/18101733/6

Information for other years or at a sub-regional level is currently available only at disproportionate cost because:

Inheritance tax data are based on a UK wide sample of cases which is designed to produce national level figures. The size of the sample means that HMRC cannot currently reliably estimate the number of taxpayers below a regional level; and

Postcodes are frequently missing from inheritance tax returns, and while the completion rate has improved to the point where analysis of the tax receipts on a regional basis can be carried out for 2007-08 this is not possible for earlier years.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter of 18 December 2009 from the hon. Member for Billericay on his constituent Mrs Dunne. [318967]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 23 February 2010.

Mortgages

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 11 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 709W, on mortgages, what assessment has been made of the effect of the European Commission proposals on *(a)* the level of access by first time buyers to mortgages and *(b)* the maximum loan to value mortgage permitted for residential mortgages. [319318]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Tripartite Authorities continue to engage in European proposals concerning mortgage markets and are themselves exploring changes to mortgage regulation at a UK level. The FSA issued a Discussion Paper in October 2009 reviewing the current regulations. Chapter 3 discusses prudential measures, and Chapter 4 considers product regulation. The paper is available online at:

www.fsa.gov.uk/pubs/discussion/dp09_03.pdf

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Angus Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many applications have been made to the Homeowner Mortgage Protection Scheme in 2010; [318831]

(2) how many homeowners are participating in the Homeowner Mortgage Protection Scheme. [318832]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

For management information on Homeowners Mortgage Support I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1297W.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many homeowners in Dundee East constituency are in receipt of assistance under the Homeowner Mortgage Protection Scheme. [319599]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

For management information on Homeowners Mortgage Support I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1297W. This information is not monitored at constituency level.

Public Sector: Construction

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps the Office of Government Commerce is taking *(a)* to monitor compliance by public sector construction clients with the Common Minimum Standards, *(b)* to ensure that supply team workforces have

Construction Skills Certification Scheme cards and *(c)* to exclude from tendering companies which are not compliant with the Construction Skills Certification Scheme; [319832]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the number of public sector construction clients who do not *(a)* adhere to the Common Minimum Standards and *(b)* by contract require their contractors to ensure that their employees have Construction Skills Certification Scheme cards. [319819]

Ian Pearson: The Common Minimum Standards (CMS) summarise Government policy affecting the procurement of built environments. Government do not centrally monitor procuring organisations' implementation of that policy. One of the standards is for clients to include a contract clause requiring individuals in their supply teams to be registered on the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS), a trade body run by CSCS Ltd., or to be able to prove their competence in some other appropriate way.

CSCS is managed under contract by CITB-ConstructionSkills, a sector skills body. The rules and scheme criteria are set by the scheme's owners and Government have no involvement.

Revenue and Customs

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the objectives are of the *(a)* pensions simplification, *(b)* tax credits, *(c)* taxpayer understanding, *(d)* web convergence, *(e)* integrated customer management, *(f)* data quality and *(g)* customer foundations change and improvement programme under HM Revenue and Customs' Departmental Transformation Programme. [316944]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is as follows:

Pensions Simplification

This programme was part of the Government's agenda to reform pensions to encourage more people to save for their retirement, and to reduce the compliance costs of the pensions industry. The programme successfully delivered an online service in two phases. The first was completed in April 2006 and provided online registration for new pension schemes. The second, in April 2007, delivered an online service to file pension scheme returns.

Tax Credits

This programme was established to deliver targeted service improvements, to help customers get their claim right and improve the customer experience. It is still in progress.

Taxpayer Understanding

This was a research project to gain a detailed understanding of customer behaviour. This programme was originally a strand from the Customer Foundations programme and closed in March 2008.

Web Convergence

This programme was developed to transform the Department's website to converge content with the cross-Government portals, Directgov and Businesslink. The Businesslink Convergence programme is still in progress, and due to complete by April 2011.

Integrated Customer Management

This programme was designed to deliver services and processes structured around the customer to improve efficiency, compliance and the customer experience; it was closed in February 2007.

Data Quality

This programme was designed to improve data integrity and facilitate the merger of data in legacy systems; it was closed in March 2007.

Customer Foundations Change and Improvement (also known as Customer Foundations)

This programme was developed to help drive organisational and operational change, to deliver transformed services to customers, reduce cost and improve compliance. The programme ran from October 2006 and closed in March 2007.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* consultants were employed in each business unit of HM Revenue and Customs in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [313938]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is in the following table.

HM Revenue and Customs' reorganisation of its business units and transfers of staff and responsibilities between units means that staff numbers over a period may not be directly comparable.

	2006		*2007*		*2008*	
Directorate	*Headcount*	*Full-time equivalent*	*Headcount*	*Full-time equivalent*	*Headcount*	*Full-time equivalent*
Adjudicator's Office	40	39.33	42	41.42	41	40.44
Anti-Avoidance Group	117	114.33	110	107.04	116	112.30
Benefits and Credits	67	65.52	100	98.33	—	—
Benefits and Credits—Delivery	—	—	—	—	7,100	6,361.97
Benefits and Credits—Product and Process	—	—	—	—	104	102.49
Business	89	86.85	214	207.01	225	218.09
Central Compliance	31	31.00	40	39.64	304	292.18
Central Policy	207	200.77	164	157.40	159	152.66
Charity, Assets and Residence	2,017	1,902.01	1,952	1,832.91	1,899	1,775.18
Commercial Directorate	148	141.79	163	156.06	136	130.20

Directorate	2006 Headcount	2006 Full-time equivalent	2007 Headcount	2007 Full-time equivalent	2008 Headcount	2008 Full-time equivalent
Communications and Marketing	180	174.56	190	184.14	233	224.68
Corporate Shared Services	—	—	—	—	1,675	1,566.74
Corporation Tax and VAT	323	309.53	335	322.03	345	329.98
Criminal Investigation	1,635	1,600.51	1,860	1,817.53	1,856	1,810.45
Customer Contact	11,507	10,664.37	13,217	12,294.18	12,586	11,766.70
Customs and International	283	271.60	296	284.86	310	297.27
Debt Management and Banking	10,304	9,316.74	9,668	8,683.12	8,777	7,874.11
Departmental Transformation Programme and Capability Review	—	—	—	—	58	56.44
Detection	4,445	4,335.50	4,633	4,513.80	4,586	4,459.87
Estates and Support Services	3,361	3,186.55	2,852	2,687.78	2,249	2,125.79
Excise and Stamp Taxes	335	322.06	289	275.96	—	—
Excise, Stamp and Money Businesses	—	—	—	—	319	305.01
Finance	—	—	—	—	423	395.02
Finance and Internal Audit	1,167	1,081.92	1,015	930.58	—	—
Governance and Security	—	—	—	—	225	217.85
HR and Learning	2,139	2,021.16	1,827	1,728.32	—	—
Individuals	—	—	—	—	87	85.52
Individuals Customer Unit	30	29.34	39	38.53	—	—
Information Management Solutions	1,997	1,912.13	1,743	1,678.96	1,499	1,443.98
Internal Audit	—	—	—	[illegible]	149	145.40
Knowledge, Analysis and intelligence	718	688.00	642	612.88	581	552^88
Large Business Service	1,875	1,826.31	1,814	1,759.79	1,761	1,704.02
Legal and Governance	422	404.90	529	507.68	—	—
Local Compliance	17,807	16,777.31	16,062	15,089.48	15,429	14,461.50
National Processing	12,369	10,839.48	10,991	9,713.55	—	—
National Teams and Special Civil Investigations	2,937	2,790.52	3,713	3,531.57	2,024	1,948.15
Organisational Development	61	59.11	46	44.81	—	—
Pacesetter	—	—	—	—	15	14.75
PAYE and SA Processing	19,134	16,967.30	17,205	15,100.49	20,781	18,228.92
PAYE, SA and NIC	334	323.86	388	373.17	350	335.65
People Function	—	—	—	—	286	274.88
Risk and Intelligence	4,569	4,318.36	4,296	4,049.72	3,833	3,598.25
Security and Business Continuity	77	73.31	71	67.81	—	—
Solicitor's Office	—	—	—	—	387	367.01
Strategy Unit	9	9.00	4	4.00	—	—
Workforce Change	—	—	—	—	53	51.51
Total	100,734	92,885.05	96,510	88,934.55	90,961	83,827.84

Information on the number of individual consultants employed is not held centrally by the Department and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Revenue and Customs: Standards

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what accuracy statistics are recorded by the HM Revenue and Customs Quality Monitoring Exercise each month; [312148]

(2) what accuracy statistics his Department's Quality Monitoring Exercise records each month. [312149]

Mr. Timms: The following accuracy statistics are collated internally by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) on a monthly basis as part of the quality monitoring exercise in relation to self assessment.

Sample checks are made:

to record whether the self assessment return has been correctly recorded on the Department's systems on the right date and on the right record;

to establish that the tax bill is correct, that any necessary corrections have been made and any repayment has been made in the right amount to the right person at the right address;

to establish that any claims to adjust payments on account have been processed accurately and on time;

that any balancing payments have been correctly dealt with;

to establish that the code number for the current year and subsequent year is correct;

to ensure the Department's procedures have been followed to correct obvious errors; and that the Department's systems have been updated with any changes reflected in the return.

The following accuracy statistics are collated internally by HMRC as part of the quality monitoring exercise in relation to pay-as-you-earn.

Sample checks are made to record whether:

the code number for the current year and subsequent year is correct;

the liability reviewed for any earlier year is correct;

any tax calculation issued is correct;

any payable order has been issued in the correct amount and issued to the right person at the right address; and

the Department's systems accurately reflect known taxpayer details.

State Retirement Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1929W, on state retirement pensions, how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women who reached state pension age between 6 April 2008 and 5 April 2009 have taken up the option of buying back one or more years of class 3 national insurance contributions under the measures contained in the Pensions Act 2008 to date; and how much has been paid back in contributions by such individuals to date. [319540]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information request is provided in the table:

	Total	*NI contributions (£)*
Men	130	217,900
Women	893	1,492,741

Tax Allowances

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of *(a)* the revenue to be raised consequent upon the withdrawal of personal allowances on incomes between £100,000 and £112,950 and *(b)* the number of taxpayers who will be affected by this change. [312364]

Mr. Timms: The Exchequer effect of the announced changes can be found in the Budget Report 2009 in 'Table 1.2 Budget 2009 policy decisions' and in 'Table A2 Other measures announced since Budget 2008'.

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapter1_237.pdf

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/bud09_chaptera_307.pdf

The announced changes are expected to affect the top 2 per cent. of tax payers in 2010-11.

Taxation: Gambling

Mr. Greenway: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much betting tax was paid by *(a)* gambling operators and *(b)* the National Lottery in each of the last three years. [318685]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information about betting and gaming taxes revenue collected by HMRC is available at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullbett

The following table shows figures for revenue collected from betting duty in each of the last three years:

	£ 000
	Total betting
2007	418,459
2008	412,098
2009	353,347

Lottery Duty applies to lottery operators and is not a betting tax.

VAT

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an assessment of the effects on small and medium-sized enterprises of increasing the value added tax registration threshold to £200,000; and if he will make a statement. [305762]

Mr. Timms: The UK has one of the highest VAT registration thresholds in the European Union. Under existing agreements any increase is limited to maintaining the value of the threshold in real terms.

Changing the registration threshold to £200,000 would have significant effects on competition between registered and unregistered businesses, on burdens on businesses and HM Revenue and Customs and on revenues.

VAT: Alcoholic Drinks

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to prevent value added tax being reclaimed by retailers in relation to loss-leading on marketing promotions of alcohol products. [319352]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 26 February 2010]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 3 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 371W. Businesses are entitled to reclaim the value added tax on costs that relate to their business activities. There are therefore no grounds on which to take steps to prevent value added tax being reclaimed by retailers in relation to marketing promotions of alcohol products, even if those are loss leading within the wider context of their business activities.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many homeowners are in receipt of assistance under the Homeowner Mortgage Protection Scheme in Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency. [318932]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

For management information on Homeowners Mortgage Support I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1297W.

JUSTICE

Crime: Convictions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 488-89W, on crime: convictions, what the equivalent figures are for each year between 1997 and 2006. [319825]

Claire Ward: The available information from 1997 to 2008 (latest available), is shown in tables 1 to 15 which have been placed in the Library of the House.

The Court Proceedings Database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. Specific information on the circumstances of an offence are not held centrally and it is therefore not possible to identify whether an offence arising from tackling an intruder occurred in a residential or retail property.

Cautions and court proceedings data for 2009 are planned to be published in the autumn, 2010.

Custodial Treatment

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in receipt of a custodial sentence for *(a)* sexual offences, *(b)* murder and *(c)* offences related to terrorism are absent without authorisation from prisons. [317763]

Maria Eagle: There are three main types of unapproved absence: (a) escapes, which involve a prisoner absenting himself from prison custody without lawful authority by overcoming a physical security restraint such as fences, locks, bolts and bars, a secure vehicle or handcuffs; (b) absconds, where a prisoner absents himself from prison custody without lawful authority and without overcoming physical security restraints (usually from open prisons); and; (c) recalls from temporary release licence following breach before being taken into police or prison custody. Additionally a small number of releases in error occur as a result of administrative error.

The following table shows a breakdown of prisoners with *(a)* sexual offences, *(b)* murder and *(c)* offences related to terrorism who are still absent without authorisation from prisons from 1 April 2004 until 31 March 2009.

Breakdown of prisoners by main index offence who are absent from prisons without authorisation since 1 April 2004 until 31 March 2009

Type of absence	*Sexual offence*	*Murder*	*Offence related to terrorism*
Escape	0	0	0
Abscond	0	2	0
Temporary release recall	0	1	0
Release in error[1]	0	0	0

[1] Release in error data available only from 1 January 2005.

These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

There is no category of "offence related to terrorism" but we have interpreted it as referring to those convicted of offences under terrorism legislation, or those convicted of other offences (e.g. conspiracy to murder, or explosives-related offences) where the police and prosecution are satisfied that the acts related to terrorism and have prosecuted the case as such.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many designs for its website his Department and its predecessor have commissioned since 2005. [318647]

Mr. Wills: Two designs have been commissioned for the Ministry of Justice website in the period since 2005:

www.justice.gov.uk

The first design was the creation of the first Ministry of Justice website in May 2007, and the second was a refresh, delivered in April 2009.

For further details regarding both designs I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Monmouth (David T. C. Davies) on 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1010W and the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice) to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 23 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2111W.

Explosives: Crimes of Violence

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people have been convicted for possessing explosives with intent to cause violence in England and Wales in each year since 1998; [317660]

(2) how many people have been convicted of possessing explosives without a valid certificate or licence in England and Wales in each year since 1998. [317776]

Claire Ward: The number of persons found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for offences relating to possession of explosives with intent to endanger life is given in the following table from 1998 to 2008 (latest available).

Convictions for offences of possessing explosives without a valid licence are part of a miscellaneous group of Explosives Acts offences, including the 1875 and 1923 Acts, which cannot be separately analysed. For information, defendants found guilty for offences within this miscellaneous group are given in the table.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication in the autumn, 2010.

The number of persons found guilty at all courts for selected explosives offences, England and Wales, 1998 to 2008[1,2]

Offence description	*Statute*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[3]
Possession etc. of explosives with intent to endanger life	Explosives Substances Act 1883—section 3 (in part)	2	—	—	—	7	4	—	1	4	6	3

The number of persons found guilty at all courts for selected explosives offences, England and Wales, 1998 to 2008[1,2]

Offence description	*Statute*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[3]
Offences against Explosives Acts; Offences against orders made under the Emergency Laws; Offences against restrictions relating to the manufacture of fireworks	Explosives Acts 1875 and 1923 (except S.80 of the Explosives Act 1875) and Orders in Council and Rules thereunder; Orders made under the Emergency Laws (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953—S.3; Fireworks Act 1951—SS.1(4), 2(5), 5(4) and 6	13	14	8	4	13	7	19	15	4	2	—

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Firearms and Drugs: Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people attempting to enter the UK were convicted of offences related to the importation and possession of *(a)* firearms and *(b)* drugs in each year since 1998; and how many of these offenders received the maximum prison sentence or highest fine applicable in each year. [318698]

Claire Ward: The number of persons found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for offences of attempting to enter the UK, from 1998 to 2008 (latest available) is given in the table.

Data given in the table are on the principle offence basis which relates to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. For example, when a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

The Court Proceedings Database holds information in relation to the offence as stipulated by law. From this information it is not possible to ascertain at what point an offence was committed. It is therefore not possible to separately identify those offences that were committed at the time of attempting to enter the UK.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication in autumn, 2010.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences of attempting to enter the UK, England and Wales, 1998 to 2008[1,2,3]

Offence		*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Entering UK in breach of deportation order	Proceeded against	5	6	2	2	8	10	7	9	7	10	13
	Found guilty	4	5	2	1	7	7	7	6	7	6	11
Entering UK without leave	Proceeded against	16	17	19	31	46	51	30	43	75	42	7
	Found guilty	7	15	14	24	36	39	24	33	63	26	7
Total	Proceeded against	21	23	[illegible]	33	54	61	37	52	82	52	20
	Found guilty	11	20	16	25	43	46	31	39	70	32	18

[1] Statistics given are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

HM Courts Service: Debt Collection

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court enforcement officers HM Courts Service employed in each quarter since January 2005. [318916]

Bridget Prentice: Currently the total number of civilian enforcement officers (CEOs) employed by HMCS is 497. HMCS are unable to provide the number of CEOs employed in previous years' quarters without incurring a disproportionate cost as the specific information relating to CEOs cannot easily be extracted from information held on total numbers of employees.

Human Trafficking

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of offences related to *(a)* drug trafficking, *(b)* people trafficking, *(c)* firearm trafficking and *(d)* wildlife crimes committed while attempting to enter the UK in each year since 1998. [317657]

Claire Ward: The number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences related to drug trafficking, people trafficking, firearm trafficking and endangered species trafficking, England and Wales, 1998 to 2008 (latest available) is shown in the following table. Information available centrally through the Court Proceedings Database holds information in relation to the offence as stipulated by law. From this information it is not possible to ascertain at what point an offence was committed.

Data for offences under the 'Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997' are part of a miscellaneous group of offences for which 2008 data are not yet separately available. I will write to the hon. Member when these data become available.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication in the autumn, 2010.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences related to drugs trafficking, people trafficking, firearms trafficking, and endangered species trafficking, England and Wales, from 1998 to 2008[1,2,3]

Offence description	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008[4]*
Unlawful importation of a drug controlled under misuse of Drugs Act 1971	1,190	1,171	1,165	1,648	1,599	1,063	975	1,026	835	783	745
Unlawful exportation of a drug controlled under misuse of Drugs Act 1971	59	25	40	30	21	18	37	35	35	36	31
Production of or being concerned in the production of a controlled drug	1,779	1,477	1,175	952	1,114	1,657	1,379	1,360	1,480	2,120	2,627
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply	5,540	5,069	4,607	4,405	4,452	4,834	4,887	5,097	5,062	5,499	6,443
Supplying or offering to supply (or being concerned in supplying or offering to supply) a controlled drug	3,819	3,717	3,341	3,214	3,300	3,461	3,619	3,707	3,499	3,907	3,940
Having a controlled drug in possession on a ship; Being knowingly concerned in the carrying or concealing of a controlled drug on a ship	16	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	—
Concealing or transferring the proceeds of drug trafficking; Assisting another person to retain the benefit of drug trafficking; Acquisition, possession or Use of proceeds of drug trafficking	16	30	26	42	38	49	27	20	6	7	6
Sub-total drugs trafficking offences[4]	12,429	11,490	10,355	10,297	10,525	11,083	10,925	11,246	10,918	11,953	13,792
Arranging or facilitating arrival of a person into the UK for sexual exploitation (trafficking)	*	*	*	*	*	*	—	9	6	9	11
Trafficking people into the UK for the purpose of exploitation	*	*	*	*	*	*	—	—	3	—	—
Sub-total people trafficking offences[4]	*	*	*	*	*	*	—	9	9	9	11
Offence in relation to the unlawful importation of any weapon or ammunition of a kind mentioned in s.5(1)(a), (ab), (aba), (ac), (ad), (ae), (af) or (c) of the Firearms Act 1968.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	2	3
Sub-total firearms trafficking offences[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	2	3
Offences under the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997	—	—	6	6	3	2	3	—	10	—	[5]n/a

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences related to drugs trafficking, people trafficking, firearms trafficking, and endangered species trafficking, England and Wales, from 1998 to 2008[1, 2, 3]

Offence description	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[7]
Sub-total endangered species trafficking offences	—	—	8	6	3	2	3	—	10	—	[7]n/a

[1] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Includes offences under statutes: Customs and Excise Management Act 1979; Misuse of Drugs Act 1971; Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994; Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Act 1990; Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

[5] Includes offences under statutes: Sexual Offences Act 2003, sections 57 & 58; Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004, section 4(1) & (5).

[6] Includes offences under statute: Customs and Excise Management Act 1979, section 50(1)(2)(3)(4) & (5A).

[7] Offences under the 'Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997' form part of a miscellaneous group of offences for which 2008 data are not yet separately available.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Human Trafficking: Victims

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are in place to ensure that first responder agencies in human trafficking cases have access to the assistance for victims as required under Article 12 of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. [318970]

Claire Ward: Article 12 of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings requires that the assistance measures detailed in its sections (1) and (2) are provided to individuals identified as victims to a 'reasonable grounds' standard of proof. Access to this type of assistance is therefore provided to identified victims of trafficking through support providers.

From 2003 to 2009 the Government invested £5.8 million in the POPPY Project to provide specialist accommodation and support to victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation. A further investment of £3.9 million over the current and next financial year funds specialist accommodation and support for victims of all forms of human trafficking.

To assist in the identification of potential victims of human trafficking and to ensure that they receive the best possible treatment from the outset, the Office for Criminal Justice Reform has published a new toolkit, which provides advice and support to frontline practitioners who may come into contact with victims.

Juries

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people have been required for jury service *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each London borough in each of the last 10 years; [318602]

(2) how many people have been summoned for jury service *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each London borough in each of the last 10 years; [318603]

(3) how many people summoned for jury service were disqualified for each reason *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each London borough in each of the last 10 years; [318604]

(4) how many people have been summoned for jury service *(a)* once, *(b)* twice, *(c)* three and *(d)* four times (i) nationally and (ii) in each London borough in each of the last 10 years; [318605]

(5) how many people of those summoned have declined to carry out their jury service for each reason *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [318606]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows, on a national level basis for each calendar year from 2000 to 2008, the following:

(a) how many people have been required for jury service

(b) how many people have been supplied to the court for jury service

(c) how many people have been deferred from the original date they were summoned for jury service

(d) how many people have been excused from jury service

(e) how many people have been disqualified from jury service.

Information for each London borough is not held centrally as the data cannot be extracted in this way by the computer system.

The Ministry of Justice are also unable to provide information on how many people have been summoned for jury service more than once. This is because jurors are selected on a completely random basis using the electoral voting registers supplied annually by each local authority. As the electoral registers are updated annually and due to the randomness of jury selection there is potential for some members of the public to be called for jury service more than once while some may never be called.

Members of the public summoned for jury service cannot decline to carry out jury service. However, a juror can apply to defer their jury service to a more suitable date within the forthcoming 12-month period if the original date is not convenient. Jurors can apply to be excused from jury service but their application must show good cause why they should be excused from attending.

Calendar year end

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Total number of summons issued	79,115	579,473	492,561	461,980	431,432	388,154	390,671	412,666	416,689

									Calendar year end
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total number of jurors supplied to the court	24,907	187,080	197,599	184,833	187,114	185,193	181,966	182,661	183,506
Deferred to serve at a later date	8,860	61,435	59,786	59,528	65,754	63,741	61,254	66,174	66,806
Number refused deferral	22	234	297	340	288	286	172	122	103
Excused									
by right having served in past two years	4,700	32,368	29,120	28,247	14,887	4,333	4,277	4,518	4,244
child care	3,410	27,685	26,291	24,327	19,497	15,741	15,690	16,118	15,711
work commitments	2,701	26,640	25,628	19,373	14,961	14,419	15,998	16,428	16,857
medical	5,650	44,435	40,982	35,061	34,016	32,239	30,332	32,416	31,289
travel difficulties	186	2,394	1,811	1,110	813	672	720	601	690
student	736	5,468	5,890	3,979	2,438	2,150	2,289	2,273	2,429
moved from area	1,549	11,073	6,254	3,419	2,498	2,181	2,454	2,988	2,543
language difficulties	849	5,921	5,928	5,260	4,975	4,081	4,030	4,406	4,165
other	2,521	20,678	22,354	22,480	23,103	21,658	24,126	27,764	30,006
All excused	22,382	176,662	164,257	143,176	117,188	97,474	99,036	107,582	108,534
Number refused excusal	421	2,494	1,927	3,453	4,344	3,585	2,053	1,641	1,515
Disqualified—residency, mental disorders, criminality	15,248	118,339	105,314	98,045	89,112	77,364	85,061	94,171	96,325
Disqualified—on selection	5,989	48,271	59,892	58,830	55,410	49,765	53,031	58,989	59,017
Disqualified—failed Police National Computer (PNC) check	0	69	100	139	148	193	183	207	225

Lockerbie: Bombing

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will make representations to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice in the Scottish Executive for the publication in full of all medical records held in respect of Abdelbaset al-Megrahi; [319697]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Cabinet Secretary for Justice in Scotland on the present medical condition of Abdelbaset al-Megrahi; [319698]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with the Cabinet Secretary for Justice in Scotland on the number of medical records which were considered on the decision to release Abdelbaset al-Megrahi on compassionate grounds; [319699]

(4) what recent discussions he has had with the Cabinet Secretary for Justice in Scotland on the fulfilment by Abdelbaset al-Megrahi of the conditions attached to his release since returning to Libya. [319700]

Mr. Straw: The decision to release Abdelbaset al-Megrahi on compassionate grounds is a matter solely for the Scottish Government. It is for the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Justice to determine whether it would be appropriate to publish the medical records of Mr. al-Megrahi.

As the release of Mr. al-Megrahi is a matter for the Scottish Government, I have not discussed with the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Mr. al-Megrahi's medical records, his current medical condition, or the conditions attached to his release.

Magistrates' Courts: Fines

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was *(a)* imposed and *(b)* enforced in financial penalties by magistrates' courts in England and Wales in each quarter since January 2005. [318915]

Bridget Prentice: The total amount imposed in financial penalties by magistrates courts in England and Wales in each quarter since January 2005 is:

Quarter ending	*Amount imposed (£)*
March 2005	72,010,873
June 2005	79,093,537
September 2005	76,827,681
December 2005	75,844,360
March 2006	44,796,975
June 2006	52,798,386
September 2006	73,267,726
December 2006	72,474,846
March 2007	79,821,484
June 2007	76,769,112
September 2007	79,380,472
December 2007	76,605,090
March 2008	78,114,419
June 2008	77,379,483

Quarter ending	*Amount imposed (£)*
September 2008	86,721,586
December 2008	83,070,066
March 2009	86,955,209
June 2009	85,036,294
September 2009	87,865,353
December 2009	87,865,476

HMCS systems do not identify how much was collected in respect of financial penalties imposed in just the magistrates courts and can provide only the total collected in respect of all financial penalties i.e. financial penalties imposed in the magistrates courts, crown courts and unpaid fixed penalty notices and penalty notices for disorder which are transferred into HMCS for enforcement. The total amount collected in respect of all financial penalties in England and Wales in each quarter since January 2005 is:

Quarter ending	*Amount collected (£)*
March 2005	53,291,430
June 2005	57,675,258
September 2005	56,145,793
December 2005	60,742,717
March 2006	58,742,427
June 2006	57,723,587
September 2006	66,590,832
December 2006	58,329,155
March 2007	62,139,086
June 2007	64,707,934
September 2007	64,143,607
December 2007	64,439,257
March 2008	62,820,865
June 2008	63,593,020
September 2008	64,649,201
December 2008	59,572,433
March 2009	58,705,830
June 2009	60,469,348
September 2009	62,260,160
December 2009	69,790,096

It should be noted that financial penalties can be collected in a different period from which they were imposed in.

National Offender Management Service: Consultants

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much (a) the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) spent on external consultancy fees and (b) his Department spent on external consultancy fees related to NOMS in each of the last three years. [317128]

Mr. Straw: The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) collates data on consultancy expenditure as part of its Consultancy Value Programme which assists departments in driving greater value from Government's use of consultants. The Ministry's expenditure on consultancy for 2007-08 is reported as £56 million and can be found from the link:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/professional_services_consultancy_value_programme.asp

The 2008-09 data collection and analysis exercise has recently concluded, giving a finalised figure of £49.7 million. This will be posted on the OGC website in due course. A small element of this finalised figure represents an estimate based on average spend per commission where the data provided by business areas was incomplete.

Both the 2007-08 and 2008-09 figures reflect expenditure by the Ministry of Justice headquarters, HM Courts Service, HM Courts Service Estates, Tribunals Service, and the National Offender Management Service (except for the Probation Service). Refinements in the methodology for classifying expenditure in accordance with OGC taxonomy means that the 2007-08 and 2008-09 figures are not directly comparable at a detailed level.

Within the totals for each year, the National Offender Management Service accounts for £5 million in 2007-08, excluding payments to Treasury Solicitors which were included in the £56 million total, and £1.35 million in 2008-09.

The Ministry was established in May 2007 so data is not available prior to 2007-08 for the Department in its current form.

NOMS receives a delegated budget from the Ministry in order to conduct its business. NOMS have to meet its own consultancy fees from this delegated budget.

Office for Legal Complaints

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the running costs of the Office of Legal Complaints have been in each month since its inception; and what estimate he has made of its likely running costs in its first year of operation. [319076]

Bridget Prentice: The Office for Legal Complaints is currently in the process of setting up the Legal Ombudsman Scheme, which is expected to be in operation in the autumn of 2010, and has spent £1,643,000 of its implementation budget since 1 July 2009, when it was established. This represents an average cost of £235,000 per month.

The running costs of the Legal Ombudsman Scheme in its first year of operation are anticipated to be in line with its forecast budget of £19.9m per annum.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Office for Legal Complaints has installed an IT system to be used to manage its complaints process. [319077]

Bridget Prentice: No IT system for managing the complaints system has been installed yet. The Office for Legal Complaints has completed a tendering process for the installation of a case management system and supporting infrastructure. An announcement of the successful outcome of this process is expected to be made shortly.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made on the acquisition of the premises of the Office of Legal Complaints. [319078]

Bridget Prentice: The Office for Legal Complaints announced its permanent location on Tuesday 23 February. It will be located in the centre of Birmingham in Baskerville House.

As required under the Legal Services Act 2007 any commitments for premises undertaken by the OLC within its first five years must be approved by the Lord Chancellor. Ministerial approval for the OLC's preferred premises was given on 10 February.

Paedophilia

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent guidance his Department has issued on the publication of images of convicted paedophiles; and if he will make a statement. [318525]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice has not issued guidance on the publication of images of convicted criminals. However, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre's Most Wanted website was launched in November 2006 in partnership with Crimestoppers. That website contains photographs of convicted child sexual offenders who are wanted because they have breached the notification requirements. The Home Department has indicated that, to date, 15 of the 20 offenders whose photographs have been posted on the website have been located.

The photographs and details of child sexual offenders who have failed to comply with their notification requirements and have gone missing are included on the website only following the exhaustion of all lawful means to identify their whereabouts and a comprehensive risk assessment by the responsible police force in respect of the impact on victims, the individual offenders, their family and the community. CEOP and police forces comply with Standard Operating Procedures drawn up in consultation with the Home Office, ACPO and Crimestoppers.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of *(a)* prison capacity and *(b)* the prison population in each of the next 12 months; and on what assumptions such estimates are based. [317693]

Mr. Straw: By the end of 2009 the total useable operational capacity of the prison estate was 85,986.

The Ministry of Justice aims to increase prison capacity to 96,000 places by 2014 through the prison capacity programme. These places are being provided through the building of new prisons as well as expansion of existing ones and more effective use of the estate. Over 3,600 new places will be delivered in 2010 and around 1,400 new places in 2011.

Capacity estimates are subject to change due to the number of existing prison places which may need to be taken out of use in the future for maintenance purposes. The precise numbers and delivery timings of new prison places will also depend on construction schedules and prioritisation within the prison estate.

The Ministry of Justice produces annual projections of the prison population, most recently in August 2009. These project the prison population under three different scenarios, based on different assumptions about future sentencing trends: the medium scenario assumes no increases or decreases in custody rates or determinate sentence lengths. The high/low scenarios reflect a 1 per cent. annual increase/decrease in custody rates and a 0.5 per cent. increase/decrease in the average (determinate) custodial sentence lengths.

Other impacts included in the projections, such as those of legislation and processes, are applied equally to all scenarios. These cover the anticipated effect of policy and process initiatives that have agreed implementation timetables. These assumptions and anticipated effects have remained unchanged since last year projections.

The requested information is shown in the following table:

Monthly values of projected prison population for high, medium and low scenarios February 2010-February 2011

	High	*Medium*	*Low*
February 2010	83,600	83,100	82,500
March 2010	84,800	84,200	83,500
April 2010	85,000	84,400	83,600
May 2010	85,000	84,300	83,400
June 2010	85,700	84,900	83,900
July 2010	86,600	85,700	84,700
August 2010	86,400	85,500	84,400
September 2010	86,700	85,700	84,400
October 2010	86,800	85,700	84,400
November 2010	87,300	86,100	84,800
December 2010	85,600	84,400	82,900
January 2011	86,500	85,200	83,600
February 2011	86,800	85,400	83,700

Notes:

1. All numbers rounded to the nearest hundred and are end of month figures.

2. The prison population is influenced by diverse factors that can mean that the actual future prison population may not be the same as that projected:

changes in sentencer behaviour, policy decisions and the criminal justice process, which can respond to a multitude of environmental factors such as high profile criminal cases and public debate;

implementation of new policies and processes without a timetable, or for which a quantitative assessment of the impact is currently not possible;

unknown future policy, process and political changes.'

More details on the projections may be found in the latest published bulletin, "Prison Population Projections 2009-2015" Ministry of Justice Statistics Bulletin, 28 August 2009. This is available at the following webpage:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonpopulation.htm

Prison Sentences

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were sentenced to a prison term in each year since 1997; and how many of those people received sentences of *(a)* less than three months, *(b)* three to six months, *(c)* six to 12 months and *(d)* over one year. [319822]

Claire Ward: The requested information is shown in the tables.

The information is taken from Sentencing Statistics 2008, table 2.3, available via the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

Persons sentenced to immediate custody at all courts by length of sentence, 1997 to 2008, England and Wales

	Number and percentage of persons given immediate custody and sentence length					
All offences	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
Total persons sentenced	1,373,378	1,456,776	1,397,786	1,414,188	1,338,522	1,410,504
Number given immediate custody	93,841	100,566	105,323	106,187	106,273	111,607
Percentage given immediate custody	6.8	6.9	7.5	7.5	7.9	7.9
Up to and including three months	35,054	39,427	43,059	41,585	40,884	42,542
Over three months and up to and including six months	22,217	24,314	26,203	28,514	29,030	29,419
Over six months and less than 12 months	5,808	5,963	5,573	6,419	6,337	6,590
12 months	5,641	5,837	5,677	5,316	5,019	5,130
Over 12 months[1]	25,121	25,025	24,811	24,353	25,003	27,926

	Number and percentage of persons given immediate custody and sentence length					
All offences	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Total persons sentenced	1,479,812	1,536,826	1,473,275	1,412,940	1,406,788	1,353,937
Number given immediate custody	107,670	106,322	101,236	96,017	95,206	99,525
Percentage given immediate custody	7.3	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	7.4
Up to and including three months	40,754	39,707	37,100	34,712	34,427	35,747
Over three months and up to and including six months	29,498	28,492	26,756	24,422	23,109	22,329
Over six months and less than 12 months	6,038	6,346	6,462	6,401	6,779	6,920
12 months	4,800	4,811	5,001	4,775	5,059	5,652
Over 12 months[1]	26,580	26,966	25,917	25,707	25,832	28,877

[1] Includes life and indeterminate sentences.

Notes:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
3. This data has been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database.
4. This data is presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed.
5. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Property: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many property transactions took place where the sale price was *(a)* more than £60,000, *(b)* more than £125,000, *(c)* more than £175,000 and *(d)* more than £250,000 in each year since 1997. [318740]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry is able to provide information on the total number of residential properties sold at full value[1] in the requested categories in each year since 1997.

[1] Full value = residential property transactions where the full price has been paid. The figures exclude a number of transactions including Right to Buy sales at a discount, properties sold by way of a gift and properties sold under a compulsory purchase or Court order.

	> £60,000	*> £125,000*	*> £175,000*	*> £250,000*
1997	526,669	136,965	58,179	22,748
1998	555,992	162,900	73,348	27,890
1999	714,629	241,748	113,334	44,883
2000	731,825	285,573	141,665	57,075
2001	885,625	390,666	197,913	77,098
2002	1,059,497	561,588	302,707	118,723
2003	1,070,227	649,791	364,842	137,778
2004	1,161,199	794,686	472,424	186,086
2005	1,002,711	704,023	428,454	172,511
2006	1,278,538	935,560	592,777	253,268
2007	1,236,072	937,892	627,523	288,260
2008	626,892	458,917	303,879	139,478
2009	576,371	429,267	262,712	124,463

Rape: Sentencing

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average *(a)* determinate sentence and *(b)* tariff was for a life or indeterminate public protection sentence for rape in each of the last 10 years. [316327]

Mr. Straw: The available information is provided in the following table. Data on tariffs for life or indeterminate public protection sentences for rape could currently be provided only at disproportionate cost, though I have asked officials for advice on whether future arrangements for the economic collection of this data are feasible.

When calculating average custodial sentence length only determinate custodial sentences are included. This may have the effect of making the average custodial sentence length (ACSL) appear lower for offences where a larger proportion of offenders are given indeterminate sentences.

Average custodial sentence length for rape[1], 1998 to 2008

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Rape of a female under 16	88.6	91	91.8	95	94.1	97.1	99.8	95.4	93.3	108.2	110.7
Number of determinate sentences	209	224	188	160	208	235	251	208	189	196	198
Number of indeterminate sentences	7	18	10	14	6	12	16	16	26	35	35
Rape of a female over 16	78.7	78.8	81.5	77.9	83.2	85.3	77.7	82.2	79.8	77.9	80.6
Number of determinate sentences	287	231	245	238	258	261	285	292	264	253	278
Number of indeterminate sentences	28	32	26	28	26	27	34	41	112	115	94
Rape of a male under 16	96	76	67.5	79.7	84.4	85.2	84.5	84.5	81.4	88.5	100.2
Number of determinate sentences	12	30	18	19	26	25	22	26	7	12	9
Number of indeterminate sentences	2	2	4	4	4	2	2	2	7	8	4
Rape of a male over 16	60	65	90.5	85.5	73.7	60	100.5	60	77.1	99.6	75.3
Number of determinate sentences	10	6	12	14	7	4	8	12	13	9	9
Number of indeterminate sentences	2	2	0	4	2	2	2	2	6	7	2
Rape of a female under 13 by a male[2]	—	—	—	—	—	—	57	58.8	75.2	73.5	97.7
Number of determinate sentences	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	41	[illegible]	57	92
Number of indeterminate sentences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	21	16	32
Rape of a male under 13 by a male[2]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	49.8	47.5	50.3	74.8
Number of determinate sentences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	13	18	13
Number of indeterminate sentences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	10	9

[1] Average custodial sentence length excludes life/indeterminate sentences.

[2] Enacted as distinct offences by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 from 1 May 2004 with no equivalent offence under the 1956 Act.

Robbery: Convictions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 788W, on robbery: convictions, how many people in each age group in each court area were convicted of robbery offences. [319824]

Claire Ward: The number of people found guilty of robbery by age group and Criminal Justice System area, England and Wales 1998 to 2008 (latest available) are shown in tables 1 to 11 which have been placed in the Library of the House.

Youth Justice Board

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Youth Justice Board spent on prevention programmes in 2008-09. [318442]

Maria Eagle: For the financial year 2008-09 the Youth Justice Board incurred expenditure of £36,479,000 on prevention programmes.

The data contained in this answer are taken from the published YJB annual accounts.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Binyam Mohamed

Mr. Hague: To ask the Solicitor-General (1) how many cases are involved in the Attorney-General's inquiry into matters arising from the case of Binyam Mohamed; and when she expects her inquiries to be completed; [318950]

(2) with reference to the answer to Lord Avebury of 12 March 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns 1265-6WA, on Binyam Mohamed, when the Attorney-General intends to report to Parliament his assessment of the question of criminal wrongdoing referred to. [319534]

The Solicitor-General: I refer the right hon. Member to the statement I made on 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 26WS.

Government Departments: Judicial Review

Mr. Maude: To ask the Solicitor-General how many judicial reviews there were involving Government departments according to records held by the *(a)* Treasury Solicitor and *(b)* Administrative Court Office in each of the last three years; and how many such reviews were upheld in whole or in part in each such year. [318344]

The Solicitor-General: The Treasury Solicitor's Department was instructed in the following number of applications for judicial reviews in each of the last three years:

2007: 4,756
2008: 4,823
2009: 6,293.

Specific data on how many such reviews were upheld in whole or in part in each such year are not maintained by the Treasury Solicitor's Department. The information requested can therefore be provided but only at disproportionate cost.

The Administrative Court Office does not retain the information sought in this question. However, it is able to produce information on cases in which a Government Department is shown as first defendant. Where a Government Department is named as a subsequent defendant this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The figures the Administrative Court Office has for cases where a central Government Department was named as first defendant over the last three years are as follows:

2007: 4,614
2008: 4,877
2009: 6,886.

With regard to the number of these cases where the application was upheld, in whole or in part, this information is not held and, again, could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, the Administrative Court Office's case management system can identify the number of cases each year where Government Departments were named as first defendant and where the judicial review was granted following a substantive hearing. These figures are as follows:

2007: 13
2008: 12
2009: 4.

These figures should be treated with considerable caution, since they relate only to the outcome of substantive hearings (not to the outcome of applications at permission stage). A number of cases settle either when permission to apply for judicial review is granted or shortly before the matter is heard substantively.

Newspaper Licensing Agency

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Solicitor-General what payments the Law Officers' Department made to the Newspaper Licensing Agency in each of the last 10 years. [315589]

The Solicitor-General: Payments made by Law Officers' Departments to the Newspapers Licensing Agency are contained in the following table.

	Payments (£)
2000	6,789.47
2001	10,242.39
2002	369.00
2003	8819.4
2004	13,844.12
2005	19,869.02
2006	20,233.83
2007	14,772.98
2008	22,0187.1
2009	26,975.88

Notes:
1. The table shows direct payments to the NLA. Some Law Officers' Departments also pay a fee to the NLA via their cuttings agencies, which act as a collection agency for the licence fees associated with the hard copy cuts provided. It is not possible to quantify these payments over the period requested due to disproportionate cost.
2. The CPS has no record of payment in 2002. It is not possible to provide an explanation for this due to passage of time.
3. Payments in 2008 and 2009 included indemnity payments for previous unlicensed copying or electronic access at the RCPO and AGO respectively.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Social Services: Doncaster

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what *(a)* correspondence and *(b)* reports and reviews on safeguarding in Doncaster have been received by (i) the Director for Children and Learners in the Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber and (ii) the Children's Services Adviser in the Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber since 1 January 2004; and on what date each was received; [312792]

(2) what communications his Department has received on safeguarding in Doncaster from *(a)* the Director for Children and Learners in the Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* the Children's Services Adviser in the Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber since 1 January 2004; and on what date each was received; [312793]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of every item of correspondence between his Department, Ofsted, Doncaster children's services and the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board, since January 2007; [314491]

(4) if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of meetings which *(a)* the Secretary of State, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and its predecessor and *(c)* departmental officials have attended at which safeguarding in Doncaster has been discussed in each year since 2005. [316199]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answers 25 January and 1 February 2010]:* To supply the information requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether any official in *(a)* the Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* his Department received a copy of Organisation and Management Review of Duty and Assessment and Urban CSSW Teams written by Bron Sanders for Doncaster metropolitan borough council in March 2007; [314490]

(2) whether *(a)* he, *(b)* the Director of Children and Learners in the Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* the Children Services Improvement Adviser in the Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber, received a copy of the internal report on safeguarding in Doncaster authored in 2007 by Bron Sanders. [313769]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answers 28 January and 1 February 2010]:* The report by Bron Sanders on the Organisation and Management Review of Duty and Assessment and Urban CSSW Teams was published by Doncaster metropolitan borough council in April 2009. Neither my Department nor the Government office for Yorkshire and the Humber (GOYH) have found anything in our records which indicates that any Minister or official in DCSF or GOYH received a copy of the report prior to its publication.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what meetings *(a)* he and his predecessors, *(b)* officials in his Department, *(c)* representatives of the Government office in Yorkshire and the Humber have had with (i) Doncaster councillors, (ii) officers and (iii) representatives of children's services in Doncaster at which safeguarding children was discussed in each year since 2005; [314911]

(2) what meetings *(a)* the Director of Children and Learners and *(b)* the Children Services Improvement Adviser in the Government office of Yorkshire and the Humber have had with (i) Doncaster council, (ii) representatives of his Department and (iii) others on serious case reviews and child protection in Doncaster since 2004. [316196]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answers 2 and 8 February 2010]:* Since assuming responsibility for supporting and challenging safeguarding performance in LAs in April 2007, Government office for Yorkshire and the Humber (GOYH) officials have met council officials regularly regarding safeguarding and other aspects of children's services.

Following Ofsted's publication of the 2008 APA (Annual Performance Assessment) which rated Doncaster's children's services "inadequate", Ministers and DCSF officials met with the council to discuss the required improvements, and how best to drive them forward. Ministers have since met with the Mayor, council members and council officers over the course of the intervention to discuss the progress of the improvement agenda.

Ministers issued a direction on 12 March 2009, requiring the council to establish an Improvement Board to advise, scrutinise and challenge the council in their improvement planning and work. This has met on a monthly basis, and included officials from DCSF and GOYH in an observer capacity.

Since August 2009, a monthly Performance Challenge meeting chaired by GOYH has run alongside the Improvement Board, and included council members and officers and DCSF officials in its membership; this meeting was designed to provide more detailed scrutiny, challenge and support to specific performance areas.

A new Children's Board (succeeding the Improvement Board), which met for the first time on 29 January 2010, is designed to advise and support the council's and partners' strategic leadership of children's services; DCSF and GOYH representatives attend in an observer capacity.

Safeguarding children and child protection were the primary focus of these meetings; responses to Serious Case Reviews were included in the discussion where relevant.

Special Educational Needs: Inspections

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of Ofsted inspectors of *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* special schools have (i) professional experience of working with and (ii) undertaken specialist training in inspecting provision for children with (A) physical disabilities and (B) special educational needs. [314477]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 19 February 2010:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

Detailed information about the professional experience of inspectors in relation to special educational needs and physical disability is not held electronically. However, given that almost all education and training settings have pupils and students with special educational needs and disabilities, and that virtually all inspectors of schools have been teachers, it is almost certain that all of these inspectors have professional experience of working with such pupils.

All inspectors are provided with training on inspecting provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. Ofsted has recently prepared a training update for all school inspectors.

HMI have undertaken this training and the material is currently being prepared for the inspection service providers for use with additional inspectors. Fifty-four HMI and 259 additional inspectors who inspect schools have a specialism in special educational needs and disabilities. These numbers include 10 HMI and 102 additional inspectors with a specialism in physical disability. Some of these inspectors have come from specialist backgrounds; for example, they were formerly teachers or headteachers in special schools or mainstream schools that have specially resourced provision, and others have gained expertise through their work as inspectors. Ofsted is currently preparing updated training for all specialist inspectors. This training will be undertaken from the start of the summer term. In addition, an extensive specialist resource pack for inspecting provision for special educational needs in mainstream and special schools is being revised. This material will also be provided for inspectors from the summer term.

Ofsted is committed to making every effort to deploy specialist inspectors to inspect specialist provision in mainstream and special schools.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and placed in the library in both Houses.

Teachers: Secondary Education

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average staff to pupil ratio is in secondary schools in *(a)* Mid Sussex constituency and *(b)* England. [314779]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The following table provides the pupil:adult ratios for local authority maintained secondary schools in Mid Sussex parliamentary constituency and England, January 2009.

Within school pupil:adult ratio (PAR)[1] in local authority maintained secondary schools. Year: January 2009. Coverage: Mid Sussex parliamentary constituency and England

	PAR
Mid Sussex	11.3
England	10.7

[1] The within school PAR is calculated by dividing the total full-time equivalent (FTE) number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of all teachers and support staff employed in schools, excluding administrative and clerical staff.

Source:
School Census.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many completed transactions there were under Open Market Homebuy during its period of operation. [319276]

John Healey: For the Open Market Homebuy scheme launched on 1 April 2008, provisional estimates indicate that there were 7,919 completed transactions between April 2008 and September 2009. Information on the total number of completions under the scheme will be available in due course.

Affordable Housing: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency has spent on acquiring unsold stock for affordable housing in each of the last 12 months; and how many properties have been purchased. [318723]

John Healey: Information on expenditure on all acquisitions for 2009-10 will be available after the end of the financial year.

Affordable Housing: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on bringing temporary social housing up to the Homes and Communities Agency's design and quality standards since the introduction of those standards. [318732]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency's design and quality standards apply to temporary social housing (TSH) in a limited way. Where TSH is provided for units available for between two and 14 years alternative standards apply. For those TSH schemes lasting between 15 and 29 years both internal and sustainability core standards are mandatory while external environmental standards and additional specific standards are incentivised through the grant levels that can be provided.

Information on how much is spent on bringing temporary social housing up to these standards is not collected centrally.

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers parish council wardens have to issue penalty notices for disorder. [319279]

Barbara Follett: This is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice.

Community Development: Expenditure

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been granted under the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinders in each *(a)* local authority and *(b)* lower super output area in each year since 2000. [318211]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows amounts committed under the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder programme, which began in 2002-03. Funding is provided as part of local authority area based grant, a non ring-fenced funding stream, therefore we do not hold information on funding at lower super output area level.

Neighbourhood Management Pathfinders	*Region*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total*
Round one											
Ashfield	EM	0.755	0.844	0.786	0.605	0.323	0.323	0.323	—	—	3.959
Barnsley	YH	0.272	0.393	0.625	0.620	0.870	0.620	0.278	—	—	3.678
Basildon	E	0.411	0.359	0.601	0.739	0.450	0.450	0.250	—	—	3.260
Bolton	NW	0.598	0.525	0.742	0.970	0.606	0.434	0.047	—	—	3.922
Bournemouth	SW	0.357	0.428	0.656	0.735	0.639	0.406	0.290	—	—	3.511
Burton	WM	0.287	0.512	0.576	0.605	0.701	0.491	0.354	—	—	3.526
Camden	L	0.446	0.535	1.039	0.600	0.300	0.256	0.216	—	—	3.392
Chester	NW	0.322	0.471	0.810	0.800	0.660	0.200	0.200	—	—	3.463
Derwentside	NE	0.233	0.63	0.789	0.811	0.592	0.378	0.257	—	—	3.690
Easington	NE	0.372	0.35	0.753	0.882	0.340	0.220	0.200	—	—	3.117
Gloucester	SW	0.147	0.556	0.558	0.737	0.696	0.417	0.295	—	—	3.406
Greenwich	L	0.444	0.46	0.640	0.620	0.550	0.450	0.370	—	—	3.534
Hastings	SE	0.275	0.614	0.645	0.530	0.470	0.440	0.266	—	—	3.240
Kirklees	YH	0.577	0.604	0.647	0.637	0.600	0.500	0.203	—	—	3.768
Newcastle-under-Lyme	WM	0.322	0.562	0.652	0.586	0.379	0.378	0.378	—	—	3.257
Poulton	NW	0.584	0.258	0.897	0.800	0.439	0.343	0.264	—	—	3.585
Rotherham	YH	0.44	0.309	0.552	0.565	0.839	0.610	0.207	—	—	3.522
Staveley	EM	0.321	0.62	0.680	0.668	0.381	0.381	0.381	—	—	3.432
Stockton-on-Tees	NE	0.545	0.625	0.833	0.657	0.477	0.386	0.263	—	—	3.786
Tameside	NW	0.483	0.475	0.725	0.900	0.489	0.512	0.077	—	—	3.661
Round two											
Bassetlaw	EM	—	—	0.260	0.350	0.358	0.391	0.349	0.337	0.295	2.340
Blackburn with Darwen	NW	—	—	0.203	0.316	0.373	0.382	0.350	0.341	0.334	2.299
Blyth Valley	NE	—	—	0.081	0.400	0.434	0.379	0.405	0.312	0.290	2.301
Calderdale	YH	—	—	0.241	0.291	0.332	0.344	0.357	0.353	0.345	2.263
Fenland	E	—	—	0.260	0.568	0.354	0.354	0.354	0.354	0.354	2.598
Isle of Wight Council	SE	—	—	0.243	0.309	0.426	0.415	0.370	0.320	0.300	2.383
North Devon	SW	—	—	0.333	0.334	0.364	0.367	0.387	0.330	0.295	2.410
North Lincolnshire	YH	—	—	0.269	0.392	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	2.411
Shepway	SE	—	—	0.266	0.244	0.330	0.345	0.378	0.378	0.378	2.319
Solihull	WM	—	—	0.254	0.449	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	2.353
Southwark	L	—	—	0.222	0.270	0.408	0.396	0.349	0.347	0.350	2.342
Waltham Forest	L	—	—	0.286	0.300	0.347	0.347	0.347	0.347	0.347	2.321
Westminster	L	—	—	0.256	0.300	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.341	2.297
Wirral	NW	—	—	0.219	0.265	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	2.234
Wyre Forest	WM	—	—	0.318	0.444	0.418	0.348	0.522	0.310	0.234	2.594
Total		8.191	10.130	17.917	19.299	16.325	13.643	10.667	5.109	4.893	106.174

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been granted under the European Regional Development Fund in each *(a)* local authority and *(b)* lower super output area in each year since 2000. [318213]

Ms Rosie Winterton: European Regional Development Fund grants are paid to a wide range of public and private sector applicants. Furthermore, they are not restricted to either local authority or lower super output areas and may cover the whole or part of an ERDF programme area, including several local authorities.

It would therefore be a disproportionate cost to my Department to produce this information for each local authority and lower super output area.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been granted under the Single Regeneration Budget in each *(a)* local authority and *(b)* lower super output area in each year since 2000. [318215]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The SRJB was allocated to Government offices (GOs) and regional development agencies (RDAs) giving them the authority, freedom and flexibility to best determine the local needs and options through a bidding process. Information is therefore not available for how this was applied to each local authority or each lower super output area (LSOA).

The table shows total SRB expenditure for the six rounds of the programme was £5.7 billion.

GO/RDA	*SRB (£ million)*
East of England	136.7
East Midlands	283.8
London	1,519.60
North East	650.2
North West	1,085.50
South East	349.4
South West	168.1
West Midlands	630.6
Yorkshire/Humberside	879.5
Total	5,703.40

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been granted under the Land and Property Programme in each *(a)* local authority and *(b)* lower super output area in each year since 2000. [318217]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Land and Property Programme funding was allocated to eligible local authorities giving them the authority, freedom and flexibility to best determine the local needs and options. Information is therefore not available on how this was applied to each Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA).

I have placed in the Library of the House, a table which records the allocation for each local authority area in England from 2000-01 to 2008-09.

Council Housing: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of the funding announced for the Local Authority New Build scheme *(a)* at the Budget 2009 and *(b)* in the Housing Pledge is to be financed through (i) grants and (ii) borrowing. [318719]

John Healey: The funding announced under the Local Authority New Build programme is 50.3 per cent. grant and 49.7 per cent. prudential borrowing. This is close to the 50:50 that was anticipated when the programme was first launched. Local Authority New Build is a single programme. Funding was first announced in the Budget 2009 and significantly increased by the Housing Pledge.

Council Housing: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much and what proportion of the housing stock owned by each London borough was empty in each of the last five years; for what average length of time such properties were empty in each borough in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [319056]

Barbara Follett: A table (table 1) showing estimates of the number of empty dwellings owned by each of the London boroughs and the length of time they were empty at 1 April in each of the last five years has been placed in the House Library.

Another table (table 2) showing estimates of vacant local authority stock in each London borough as a proportion of local authority dwelling stock at 1 April in the same years has been placed in the House Library.

Council Tax: Statistics

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when his Department plans to publish its statistical release on council tax levels set by local authorities in England 2010-11; and whether the UK Statistics Authority will have a role in preparation of the statistics. [319123]

Barbara Follett: A statistical release containing details of the level of council tax set by local authorities in England 2010-11 will be published on the Communities and Local Government website at 09:30 on Wednesday 24 March 2010. This date has been publicised on both the UK National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/release-calendar/index.html

and the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/researchand statistics/statistics/publicationschedule

The UK Statistics Authority is an independent body and will have played no part in the production of these statistics, except that the statistical release is produced subject to their guidelines.

Council Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which billing authority has the lowest Band D council tax level. [319142]

Barbara Follett: In 2009-10, Broxbourne has the lowest Band D council tax level in England.

This information can be found in Table 8 of the statistical release council tax levels set by local authorities in England: 2009-10 (Revised) that is available on the Communities and Local Government website at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/counciltax200910update

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether there is any limit to the number of years an alteration to a valuation banding can be backdated and the residents be refunded in the case of an incorrect council tax banding. [319319]

Barbara Follett: The Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 (regulations 17-31) set out the way in which billing authorities must administer council tax bills and issue demand notices requiring payment. Regulation 31(4) provides that any amount of council tax overpaid shall be repaid to the taxpayer, or credited against subsequent liability of that person.

No limit is stated in the regulations regarding the period of back payment. However, when correcting an inaccuracy in a council tax valuation list, the extent to which an alteration can be backdated will depend on the circumstances of the case. No backdating can be before the date on which the dwelling first appeared in a valuation list.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 15 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 766W, on the Valuation Office Agency, whether any changes have been made to *(a)* his Department's policy on refunding householders following an erroneous council tax valuation and *(b)* the maximum liability of a local authority to refund over-payments of council tax attributable to incorrect banding. [319648]

Barbara Follett: A person who has overpaid council tax is entitled to have the overpayment refunded. There has been no decision to change this, nor to limit the liability of a local authority to make such refunds where practicable.

Departmental Energy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department plans to take to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. [319089]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government's Sustainable Operations Policy requires all equipment to be switched off when not in use. We are ensuring that this is being done by fitting timers and sensors to all non-networked equipment, using a centralised Building Energy Management System (BEMS), and conducting an ongoing energy efficiency awareness campaign.

However, the Department does not intend to specifically participate in Earth Hour's switch off. CLG's office lighting system is 15 years old and has reached the end of its useful life. Consequently, a proportion of its movement sensors have failed and some lights no longer switch off automatically. To address this, the Department is undertaking a comprehensive office lighting upgrade which is expected to achieve over 50 per cent. savings in lighting energy. Full participation in Earth Hour's switch off before the completion of this replacement project would involve initiating a total building power shutdown and this would be disproportionately expensive.

Departmental Legislation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which provisions of the *(a)* Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002, *(b)* Homelessness Act 2002, *(c)* Local Government Act 2003, *(d)* Housing Act 2004, *(e)* Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, *(f)* Planning-gain Supplement (Preparations) Act 2007, *(g)* Planning Act 2008, *(h)* Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 and *(i)* Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 have not been commenced. [319289]

Barbara Follett: Please see the following information about the commencement of the Acts referred to in *(a)* to *(i)*. The information relates to provisions which apply to England, or England and Wales, but does not include provisions where the responsibility for commencement lies with Welsh Ministers. It also excludes some provisions which have been included in Commencement Orders but are not yet in force.

(a) Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002

Not commenced—

Sections 121, 122 (partially), 123-124, schedule 8, sections (partially), 154, 156 (partially), 157 (partially) and schedule (partially).

(b) Homelessness Act 2002

All provisions in force.

(c) Local Government Act 2003

Not commenced—

Sections 68, 69, 90 (partially)

Schedule 8 (partially)

(d) Housing Act 2004

Not commenced—

Section 265 and schedules 15 (partially), 16 (partially).

(e) Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

Not commenced—

Sections 45, 46 to 48 (repealed), 50, 51

Schedule 6 paragraphs 4 to 6 (paragraph 5 repealed), 1 16(3), 27

Schedule 7 paragraphs 1,19(3) and (4)

Schedule 9—the repeal of sections 73, 83, 106-106B and 2 of, and schedules 1 (Wales) and 7 to, the Town and Count Planning Act 1990; the repeal of section 10(2) of the Planni (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990; the repe of section 17 of the Planning and Compensation Act 1991.

(f) Planning-gain Supplement (Preparations) Act 200

All provisions in force.

(g) Planning Act 2008

Not commenced—

Sections 14 (partially), 27-30, 153 (partially), 186, 18 190 (partially), 192 (partially), 193, 196 (partially), 206 (partially 224 (partially), 238 (partially)

Schedules 6 (partially), 8, 9 (partially), 10 (partially), 13 (partially

(h) Housing and Regeneration Act 2008

Not commenced—

Sections 4 (partially), 19 (partially), 31, 32 (partially), 33 (partially 35, 56 and schedule 8 (partially), 57 (partially), 58 (partially 60-63, 64 (partially), 68-71 (partially), 73-80 (partially), sectio 94, sections 95 to 98 (partially), sections 106 to 111, sections 11 to 113 (partially), section 115, sections 116 to 117 (partially section 118, section 119 (partially), section 120 to 126, section 12 (partially), sections 128 to 130, section 131 (partially), section 132 to 143, section s 144 to 145 (partially),sections 146 to 17 section 174 (partially), sections 175 to 191, section 198 (partially) sections 199 to 101, section 102 (partially), sections 203 to 21 section 212 (partially), section 213, sections 214 to 215 (partially) sections 217 to 227, section 228 (partially), sections 229 to 23 section 234 (partially), sections 235 to 239, section 240 (partially) sections 241 to 243, section 244 (partially), sections 245 to 27 sections 275 to 276 (partially), section 277 and schedule 9 (partially) sections 278 to 296 and schedule 10, section 299 and schedule 1 (partially), section 303 and schedule 12 (partially), section 31 and schedule 15 (partially), section 316 (partially), section 31 section 321 and schedule 16 (partially).

(i) Local Democracy, Economic Development an Construction Act 2009

Not commenced—

Sections 1-22, 34-54, 138-145

Schedule 7 (partially).

Departmental Manpower

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 285W, on departmental manpower, when each of the three policy advisers on fixed term contracts was appointed; which appointments were subject to open competition; and if he will list the names of each. [317812]

Barbara Follett: The policy adviser, Strategy Performance Division was appointed in June 2009 through limited competition.

The senior policy adviser, Cohesion and Faiths Division was appointed in January 2003 following a secondment.

The policy adviser, Housing Supply Division was appointed in April 2009 through limited competition.

Under the Civil Service Recruitment principles, there is no automatic requirement to advertise fixed term contracts publicly.

I am unable to provide the names of those employed as these individuals are not members of the senior civil service. Information, including names, on senior officials can be found in the Civil Service Yearbook.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and its agencies and *(b)* companies contracted by his Department and its agencies have spent on celebrity endorsements and appearances relating to projects sponsored by his Department in each of the last three years. [319126]

Barbara Follett: The Department's central Communication Directorate incurred the following fees for the use of celebrities over the last three financial years, either directly or through contracted companies:

2007-08: £200,000 for work on the Fire Kills public safety campaign

2008-09: £211,500 for work on the Fire Kills public safety campaign and the REACH BME role models campaign

2009-10: (To February 2010) - £27,500 for work on the Fire Kills public safety campaign and the Ordinary People, Extraordinary Career Fire and Rescue Service recruitment campaign

These costs exclude fees paid to celebrities or other publicly known individuals, who worked for the Department as voice over artists or in another capacity to which their celebrity status was not relevant to the work conducted.

They include fees paid to celebrities or other publicly known individuals for a range of activity not strictly defined as 'endorsements or appearances' where the individual's public status was of perceived benefit to the Department.

Information relating to use of celebrities by the Department's agencies could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Paper

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* brands of (i) paper and (ii) paper products his Department uses; and what his Department's policy is on the procurement of those materials. [320033]

Barbara Follett: Suppliers are appointed through our stationery contract with Banner Business Services and the Buying solutions paper framework contract—Antalis, Ebb, Howard Smith, McNaughton, Premier Paper, Robert Home, The Paper Company, Xerox.

Brands currently used—9 Lives, Revive, Greencoat, Cocoon, Oxygen, Evolve Business, and Cyclus. Some of these are common products, available under different brand names from different suppliers.

Within those brands it is our policy to only use products which are 100 per cent. post consumer waste if uncoated, or 75 per cent. post consumer waste if coated in line with DEFRA policy guidelines.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Weybridge of 29 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1136-37W, on departmental manpower, what the average salary is of an employee in each of the pay ranges between 3(EO) and Director. [319321]

Barbara Follett: In Communities and Local Government the average salary in each pay range from pay range 3 (EO) to director is shown in the following table:

Pay range	*Average salary (£)*
3 (executive officer)	28,240
4 (higher executive officer)	32,103
5 (senior executive officer)	38,826
6 (grade 7)	49,739
7 (grade 6)	61,433
SCS1	71,260

Departmental Plants

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies has spent on pot plants in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [319198]

Barbara Follett: The maintenance of pot plants for the Department for Communities and Local Government and its agencies is contained within the overall scope of existing Integrated Facilities Management contracts and therefore not separately identifiable.

The cost of pot plants procured within the specified period is:

	£
(i) 2007-08	725.25
(ii) 2008-09	0
(iii) 2009-10	0

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days since its inception. [316468]

Barbara Follett: Information on sickness absence for 2004, 2005, 2006-07 for the Department for Communities and Local Government can be found on the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/sickness/sickness.aspx

For the periods 2008-09 and 2009-10, Communities and Local Government has been monitoring absence figures on a quarterly basis and details will be published shortly on the Department's external website and as annual figures in our forthcoming departmental report.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which companies were contracted by his Department for the provision of temporary staff in each of the last three years; how many temporary staff were employed by his Department in each such year; and what the monetary value was of contracts with each such company in each such year. [317994]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 22 February 2010]*: The Department has used several suppliers over the last three years for the provision of temporary and agency staff. The monetary value of individual contracts could be disaggregated only at a disproportionate cost.

Details of the Department's staffing levels are published each year in its annual report and resource accounts, copies of which can be found on the Department's external website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent under each budgetary heading on the seminar held at the City Inn, Westminster on An Introduction to Strategic Communications; which *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* guests attended; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the agenda and each handout from the meeting. [318749]

Barbara Follett: The training course in question was part of the current learning and development programme for junior members of the Communication Directorate in this Department. There was no ministerial involvement in this training module. The costs associated with obtaining the training from the provider are commercially confidential, as are the materials used for the module. The cost of accommodating the two training modules was £2,000 excluding VAT.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 737W, on domestic waste, whether his Department has issued guidance to local authorities on the counting of efficiency savings made as a consequence of moving from weekly to alternate weekly collections of household waste. [319108]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey) the then Minister for Local Government on 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 779W, to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles).

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 290W, on local government: cost effectiveness, what proportion of the £550 million of efficiency savings he expects to come from more efficient waste collection. [319214]

Barbara Follett: The pre-Budget report sets out a number of areas where local government will be able to find significant efficiencies by 2012-13. It is for individual local authorities to make efficiencies based on local priorities and use of resources. Waste collection is an example of how they may do this.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities had reported the implementation of alternate weekly collection of household waste as the source of an efficiency saving in the annual efficiency returns submitted to his Department on the latest date for which figures are available. [319233]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not collect information from councils about the value of efficiencies broken down by individual service sectors. Since 2008, councils have been required to report only the net total of current cash-releasing value for money gains that have been in effect since the start of the 2008-09 financial period.

In the 2004 spending review period which ended in 2007-08, councils were required to submit Annual Efficiency Statements, which included a breakdown by service area of efficiency savings. These categories included waste.

The most recent information available from Annual Efficiency Statements is for 2007-08 and I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey) the then Minister for Local Government to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1155W, on waste disposal.

Government Office for London: Buildings

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 505W, on Government Office for London: location, what the cost to his Department will be of *(a)* surrendering the lease on Riverwalk House before it expires in 2011 and *(b)* any empty property rates owed on Riverwalk House. [318325]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Communities and Local Government do not intend to surrender the lease at Riverwalk House prior to the lease expiry. There are no empty property rates owing for the facility.

Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the job title is of each head of functions at the Homes and Communities Agency. [318750]

John Healey: The following list gives the job title of each head of function at the Homes and Communities Agency:

Head of Corporate Performance and Programme Management
Head of Corporate Assurance
Head of Finance
Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development
Head of Information Technology
Head of Legal Services
Head of Investment Analysis
Head of Investment Programmes
Head of Markets and Renewal
Head of New Business and Economics
Head of Private Finance
Company Secretary
Head of Communications
Head of Policy and Performance
Head of Academy Operations
Head of Strategy and External Relations

Homes and Communities Agency Academy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* training schemes and *(b)* courses the Homes and Communities Agency Academy provides. [319688]

Mr. Ian Austin: Continually updated information on the range of training schemes and courses offered by the Homes and Communities Agency skills and knowledge team is available on the website at this address:

http://skills.homesandcommunities.co.uk/courses

Training schemes and courses are only developed in response to market demand, and where it is evident that a gap in the market exists in relation to other service providers.

Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) with reference to page 27 of the Homes and Communities Agency's Corporate Plan for 2009, from which programmes he expects the Agency to make capital efficiencies; how much will be saved from each programme; and if he will make a statement; [319258]

(2) with reference to page 28 of the Homes and Communities Agency's Corporate Plan 2009, from which programme the Agency expects to make programme efficiencies; how much will be saved from each programme; and if he will make a statement. [319204]

John Healey: Of the £108 million reprioritisation in 2009-10, £50 million is being found from making efficiencies within the national affordable housing programme, and £30 million comes from the Community Infrastructure Fund. £2 million is being found from the Property and Regeneration programme and £26 million comes from recycled receipts from the former Derelict Land Grant programme.

For 2010-11, a further £50 million will be found from efficiencies within the national affordable housing programme. The remaining £25 million of efficiencies will be identified at a later stage, following an assessment of performance and delivery options for 2010-11.

Housing: Construction

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to increase the environmental standards to which new houses are built. [319453]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government have taken a number of steps to increase the environmental standards of new homes by reducing carbon emissions, the risk of flooding from surface water run-off and improving water efficiency. Specific measures include:

1. Setting a target for all new homes to be zero carbon from 2016 by raising energy efficiency standards under Part L of the Building Regulations with interim steps in 2010 and 2013. This regulatory approach to achieving a step change in the carbon footprint is supported by other, non-regulatory measures including:

The Code for Sustainable Homes—a voluntary set of standards for assessing the sustainability of new homes and whose highest level (level 6) requires zero carbon;

Exemplar programmes, including zero carbon Eco towns and also the Homes and Communities Agency's Carbon Challenge which is taking forward developments built to level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes;

Financial support for the Zero Carbon Hub, a delivery body established by industry to overcome the practical barriers to delivery of zero carbon homes;

Stamp duty land tax exemption for zero carbon homes.

Clarifying the role of local planning in supporting the zero carbon policy through the Planning Policy Statement on climate change.

2. Introducing water efficiency targets at 125 litres per person per day into Part G of the Building Regulations in line with standards set in the Code for Sustainable Homes at level 1 and 2.

3. National Planning Policy Statements also allows local authorities to set higher than national standards into local planning policy. This means that as long as the local circumstances justify it, and does not make house-building unviable, local authorities:

could set a code level standard for new housing development in particular locations.

should require new development to be planned to make good use of opportunities for decentralised and renewable and low-carbon energy—planning policies should support innovation and investment in sustainable buildings.

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to raise awareness of the Construction Skills Certification Scheme among local government procurement officers. [319689]

Barbara Follett: Local authorities are responsible for their own procurement decisions. In doing so, they will have regard to good practice, including where relevant the use of construction industry competency card schemes.

Housing: Energy

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations the Energy Saving Trust has made to his Department on the *(a)* level of council tax on and *(b)* sale or rent of properties with an energy efficiency rating of F or G. [319268]

Barbara Follett: No representations have been received by this Department about *(a)* the level of council tax on and *(b)* the sale or rent of properties with an energy efficiency rating of F or G.

Local Government Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much he expects to be spent on growth funding in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [318726]

John Healey: The Department has allocated £272.5 million of Growth Funds in 2009-10 and £184.3 million in 2010-11. Awards for 2010-11 are provisional with the allocations being paid and confirmed in early 2010. We will adopt a policy of only altering provisional allocations in exceptional circumstances, in line with the approach taken in relation to the local government finance settlement. As a single unringfenced block grant, local authorities have the flexibility to prioritise how and when they spend their funding allocations. In addition, £60 million of eco-towns growth funding was announced on 8 February 2010.

A full list of allocations is available on the Department's website:

www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/growth areas/supportinggrowthfunding/

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the charging of a district precept and a parish precept for provision of the same services to residents in parished areas. [319288]

Barbara Follett: The issue of precepts is a matter for the major and local precepting authorities as set out in the Local Government Finance Act 1992. There is no requirement for the precept to be broken down against specific services provided.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 721W, on local government finance, how much has been allocated to performance reward grant funding in *(a)* each year since its was introduced, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12. [319310]

Barbara Follett: Since the scheme began in 2000 about £3.04 billion has been allocated by the Treasury to performance reward grant funding. £1.2 billion was allocated to the first round as part of spending review 2000 and £1.5 billion was allocated to the second under comprehensive spending review 2004. A further £340 million was allocated to the current round as part of comprehensive spending review 2007.

Local Government Finance: Oxfordshire

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what grounds his Department rejected the exceptional circumstances case put to it by West Oxfordshire district council in relation to the rate support grant settlement on 23 December 2009. [317748]

Barbara Follett: The Government consulted on the Formula Grant Settlement for local authorities in England between 26 November 2009 and 6 January 2010. In their representation, West Oxfordshire sought a recalculation of the settlement using the most recent data on their council tax base, instead of the projected data that has been used for all authorities in the calculation of the Government's proposals.

The council tax base projections used in the 2008-09 to 2010-11 Provisional Settlements were calculated in November 2007 and took into account tax base data from October 2005 and 2007. These projections used the latest data available at the time of the three-year settlement's original calculation and were calculated on a consistent basis for all local authorities.

One of the principles of multi-year settlements is the provision of more predictability and certainty in relation to the funding that we provide to local government, so that authorities can plan and manage their budgets better. Reopening the settlement to change data for an authority would undermine this principle as it would also change the distribution of formula grant for all local authorities. For this reason, where a three-year settlement is in operation, we have a clearly stated policy of only changing published provisional local government finance reports under entirely exceptional circumstances. The Government considered all representations received during consultation, including the representation from West Oxfordshire dated 23 December 2009, but concluded that no exceptional circumstances had arisen.

Local Government: Apprentices

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 2 February 2010, on apprenticeships, if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* full dataset of the snapshot findings and *(b)* accompanying analysis. [319116]

Barbara Follett: This snapshot of information, voluntarily provided by local authorities, was used to help inform policy. Aggregate information was included in the press notice, 'John Denham Urges Councils to Create 3,000 More Apprenticeships'. The Department has no plans to publish the full data set.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 2 February 2010, on apprenticeships, what criteria were used to determine which local authorities would be eligible for local authority green space apprenticeships. [319118]

Barbara Follett: Funding to support the training and employment costs of the first year of each additional apprenticeship was offered to local authorities which met the following criteria:

Had been defined as urban under DEFRA's current (post-April 2009) rural definitions and local authority classifications;

Had already take on apprentices or had put schemes on hold due to financial constraints, but would be ready to restart given this funding;

Would be able to provide any additional funding required to run the schemes for their whole duration.

Local Government: Bank Services

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent information he has received from *(a)* Bassetlaw district council and *(b)* other local authorities on repayments in respect of losses on investments in Icelandic banks. [313948]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not collect information from local authorities on repayments in respect of losses on investments in Icelandic banks. The Resolution Committee for Landsbanki and Glitnir and the UK administrators of Heritable and Kaupthing, Singer and Friedland Ltd. have published information on likely rates of return. Local authorities are in direct contact with these administrators.

Local Government: Cornwall

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 381W, on local government: Cornwall, what proportion of the £15.64 million of savings is estimated to relate to *(a)* unitary restructuring and *(b)* other factors. [318076]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The budgeted savings are due to unitary restructuring.

Local Government: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets his Department has set for local authorities to make efficiency savings of each type in each of the next three years. [319039]

Barbara Follett: Local Government has a target to achieve at least 4 per cent. efficiency savings in 2010-11. Overall, we expect local authorities to achieve £5.5 billion of cumulative savings in the three years to 2010-11, of which we expect £3.2 billion to be delivered in the current year.

No target has been set for efficiency savings to be delivered in 2011-12 or 2012-13. The 2009 pre-Budget report set out the potential for local government to make £800 million savings by 2012-13, of which: £550 million could come from more efficient waste collection and disposal, reducing the burden of inspection, assessment and reporting requirements from across government, and measures to reduce duplication and inefficiency between different tiers of local government; and £250 million from reducing variations in spend on residential care. Local government is also expected to make a significant contribution towards the £8 billion of Operational Efficiency Programme savings identified for delivery by 2012-13 in the pre-Budget report.

Local Government: Job Evaluation

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other assistance his Department provides to local authorities for the purposes of undertaking the job evaluation process. [319420]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not provide financial or other assistance to local authorities for the purposes of undertaking the job evaluation process.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department issues guidance to local authorities on responding to requests from local authority staff to *(a)* delay and *(b)* appeal against a result of the job evaluation process. [319421]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not issue guidance on job evaluation processes.

Local Government: National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 769W, on national insurance contributions: local government, what the estimated cost to local authorities is of the increase in employer contributions in 2011-12; and whether funding will be allocated to local authorities for the purposes of meeting the cost of that increase. [319317]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 492W.

Local Government: Pay

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements there are on local authorities to publish the salaries of *(a)* identified and *(b)* unidentified local government employees. [319272]

Barbara Follett: Local authorities are required to disclose in their Statement of Annual Accounts details of the number of staff earning over £50,000 per annum in £10,000 bandings.

New legislation will come into force on 31 March 2010 which will require local authorities to disclose these details in £5,000 bandings. In addition, for senior officers local authorities will be required to publish detailed remuneration information within their Statement of Annual Accounts, in the following categories:

the total amount of salary, fees or allowances

the total amount of bonuses paid or receivable

the total amount of expenses allowance

the total amount of any compensation

the body's contribution to the person's pension

the total estimated value of any other benefits

'Senior' officers earning over £50,000 pro rata per annum to be listed by job title, except where officers receive over £150,000 in which case they will be named.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authority staff earned over *(a)* £50,000 a year and *(b)* £100,000 a year in the most recent period for which figures are available. [319283]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not held centrally.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on levels of pay inflation among senior local government officers since 1997. [319284]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not held centrally.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when he expects to reply to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 18 January 2010, on the Code for Sustainable Homes publication; [319457]

(2) when he expects to reply to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 26 January 2010, on private tenants. [319459]

Barbara Follett: Replies were sent on 25 February 2010.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when his Department next plans to publish its statistical bulletin on *(a)* the Mortgage Rescue Scheme, *(b)* repossessions and *(c)* the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme. [319040]

John Healey: Mortgage Rescue Scheme monitoring statistics covering the January to March period are due to be published on the CLG website on Thursday 13 May 2010, as pre-announced on the UK Statistics Authority Publication Hub and the CLG Statistics Publication Schedule. This date coincides with the quarterly release of statistics on arrears and possessions and court activity by the Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Ministry of Justice respectively.

For management information on Homeowners Mortgage Support I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1297W.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications were made to the Homeowner Mortgage Protection Scheme by homeowners in 2009; and how many of them have met the eligibility criteria. [319367]

John Healey: For management information on Homeowners Mortgage Support I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1297W.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the maximum percentage increase in business rates in each individual year of the 2010 to 2015 rating cycle will be as a result of the transitional relief scheme for the 2010 business rates revaluation. [319215]

Barbara Follett: The 2010 Business Rates Transitional Relief scheme limits annual increases in liability resulting from revaluation, before changes in other rate reliefs have been applied to set percentages for each year. The individual caps on increases for each year of the 2010 revaluation for small and large properties is set out in the following table.

Transitional Relief 2010 revaluation (before inflation)

	2010-11	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Upward cap					
Small properties	5	7.5	10	15	15
Large properties	12.5	17.5	20	25	25

Note:

These are year on year caps on increases. Small properties are those whose rateable value for 1 April 2010 is less than £18,000 or less than £25,500 in Greater London.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure that each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring that the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of its property relative to others. The 2010 Revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. Our £2 billion transitional relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases will ensure that in 2010-11 no business property sees its rates bill increase by more than 11 per cent. (after inflation) as a result of the revaluation, with maximum increases capped at just 3.5 per cent. (after inflation) for small properties. That is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the minimum percentage reduction in business rates in each year of the 2010-15 rating cycle is to be as a result of the downward phasing element of the transitional relief scheme for the 2010 business rate revaluation. [319261]

Barbara Follett: The 2010 Business Rates Transitional Relief scheme limits annual increases in liability resulting from revaluation, before changes in other rate reliefs are applied by set percentages for each year. This relief is funded by limiting annual reductions in bills due to the revaluation. The individual caps on reductions for each year of the 2010 revaluation for small and large properties is set out in the following table.

Transitional Relief 2010 revaluation (before inflation)

Percentage

	Downward cap	
	Small properties	*Large properties*
2010-11	20	4.6
2011-12	30	6.7
2012-13	35	7
2013-14	55	13
2014-15	55	13

Note:

These are year on year caps on reductions. Small properties are those whose rateable value for 1 April 2010 is less than £18,000 or less than £25,500 in Greater London.

The five-yearly Business Rates Revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring that the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of its property relative to others. The 2010 Revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their Business Rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. Our £2 billion Transitional Relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases will ensure that in 2010-11 no business property sees its rates bill increase by more than 11 per cent. (after inflation) as a result of the revaluation, with maximum increases capped at just 3.5 per cent. (after inflation) for small properties. That is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable he has set for the publication of data on the take-up rate of small business rate relief; and how many local authorities provided data for the survey. [319267]

Barbara Follett: The report "Small Business Rate Relief—Improving Evidence on Eligibility and Take-up" was published on 9 December 2009 and it estimates that of the approximately 1.2 million non-domestic properties in England which fall below the current rateable value (RV) thresholds for SBRR, around 575,000 are occupied by eligible small businesses. This report has been validated by an independent peer review and is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/smallbusinessmethod

New experimental statistics on the number of hereditaments claiming SBRR were published on the Communities and Local Government website on 25 February 2010. The statistical release, entitled "Number of Hereditaments Benefiting from Small Business Rate Relief and the Number of Empty Hereditaments: Experimental Statistics" is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/sbrrfeb2010

All billing authorities provided data on the number of hereditaments claiming SBRR; further information concerning the validation of these data is available in the 'data quality' section of the above statistical release.

In the light of these new statistics we have updated the published estimate of take-up. Local authorities estimated that 462,000 hereditaments were benefiting from SBRR on 31 December 2008. By applying that figure to the estimated 575,000 properties on the 2005 rating list occupied by eligible small businesses, it is estimated that around 80 per cent. of those eligible were claiming SBRR in 2008-09—see table 1 as follows:

Table 1: Take-up of SBRR—numbers claiming

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Number of hereditaments actually claiming SBRR (Thousand)	396	433	462
Number of hereditaments estimated to be occupied by eligible small businesses (Thousand)	575	575	575
Percentage of estimated eligible actually claiming	69	75	80

Relief granted to small businesses has been increasing since SBRR was introduced—from £202 million in 2005-06 to £298 million in 2008-09. This represents a real terms increase of 34 per cent. Furthermore in 2008-09, 92 per cent. of the total relief that would be paid if all those estimated to be eligible were to claim, was actually being paid—see table 2 as follows:

Table 2: Take-up of SBRR 2005-06 to 2008-09—relief

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Total relief that would be paid out if all properties estimated to be occupied by eligible small businesses were to claim[1] (£ million)	295	300	315	325
Relief actually claimed (£ million)	202	237	259	298
Percentage take-up[2]	69	78	83	92

[1] For details of how this estimate was made please see the paper "Small Business Rate Relief—Improving Evidence on Eligibility and take-up: Methodology."

[2] Percentage of total relief, which would be paid if all eligible small businesses claimed it, that was actually paid.

The Government have already removed the requirement for small businesses to reapply for the relief annually, and are taking further action to maximise take-up by removing the requirement to reapply at revaluation. This will reduce considerably the administrative burden on both small businesses and local authorities.

Non-domestic Rates: Squatting

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether empty and incomplete dwellings illegally occupied by squatters are liable for empty property business rate *(a)* discounts and *(b)* exemptions. [319224]

Barbara Follett: Owners of empty dwellings may become liable to council tax but not empty property rates. Squatters occupying a dwelling that is shown in a council tax list will be liable for council tax in the same way as any other person occupying a dwelling. Incomplete dwellings are not liable to council tax unless they have been entered in a valuation list because they are deemed to be complete as a result of a completion notice; or, despite not being complete, have become dwellings by virtue of being occupied as living accommodation.

Opencast Mining: Health Hazards

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research his Department and its predecessors have conducted on the effects on public health of opencast mining since 1997. [319303]

Mr. Ian Austin: We have conducted one piece of research. In 1999 the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne prepared a report "Do Particulates from Opencast Coal Mining Impair Children's Respiratory Health?" for the Department of Health and the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions.

The findings of this report were fed into the Government's policy on dust from mineral workings and associated operations, which is set out in Annex 1 to Minerals Policy Statement 2 "Controlling and Mitigating the Environmental Effects of Minerals extraction in England". This annex was published in 2005.

Political Impartiality

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has granted requests from its employees for permission to stand as a candidate in local government elections due to take place in 2010. [317802]

Barbara Follett: Information relating to requests from employees for permission to stand as a candidate in local government elections is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Public Houses: Government Assistance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps his Department has taken to assist public houses to avoid closure; [319141]

(2) what the responsibilities are of the Minister for Housing and Planning in relation to public houses. [319122]

John Healey: Ministers recognise the important role pubs can play in maintaining community life and there is concern across Government about the number of community pubs that have been forced to close during the recession. The Department of Communities and Local Government is working with a range of Government Departments to develop a package of measures to support community pubs.

Government action cannot sustain pubs that are fundamentally unviable but it is right to do everything possible to support those pubs that play an important community role. We will announce this package shortly.

Right to Buy Scheme

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will increase the thresholds at which Right to Buy discounts are capped. [319277]

John Healey: We have no plans to change the current Right to Buy discount limits.

Social Rented Housing

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to *(a)* the Homes and Communities Agency, *(b)* the Tenant Services Authority and *(c)* registered social landlords on local supply chain procurement in the last 12 months. [318530]

John Healey: The Office of Government commerce is responsible for issuing general guidance to the public sector on procurement.

Supporting People Programme

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 255W, on supporting people programme, what representations he has received from *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords on non-renewal of supporting people contracts. [318401]

Barbara Follett: The Department has continual engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, including local authorities and representatives of registered social landlords about the Supporting People Programme. While this may include issues concerning commissioning and contracts, it is for local authorities to make decisions about the renewal of contracts for the Supporting People Programme based on their strategic assessments of their areas' particular needs.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to answer Question 314659 on intentionally homeless households with children, tabled on 27 January 2010. [319826]

Mr. Ian Austin: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 24 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 613-4W.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Grants

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1675W, on adult learning grants, what the average duration of claims for adult learning grants is amongst each age group; what the cost was of paying the adult learning grant to each age group in 2008-09; what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median annual payment of the adult learning grant was in 2008-09 for each age group; and if he will make a statement. [318434]

Kevin Brennan: Data requested are provided for the 2008/09 academic year. This complements the data provided in my answer to the hon. Member on 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1675W, which was also for the 2008/09 academic year.

2008/09 ALG recipients

			Annual payment (£)	
Age groups	*Average claim duration (weeks)*	*Total cost (£)*	*Mean*	*Median*
19 to 25	32.20	17,478,690	674.8529	720
26 to 30	31.58	1,105,200	697.7273	750
31+	31.74	2,121,870	736.5047	810

Apprentices: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the number of small and medium-sized businesses in Leeds North West constituency which are employing apprentices. [319500]

Kevin Brennan: Information is not currently available on the size of the employer for apprentices. For the 2009-10 academic year, this information will become available on the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) when a unique employer identifier will have to be provided by all employers of apprentices.

We can provide an estimate of the size of employers, nationally, that offer and have recruited apprentices from the National Employers Skills Survey (NESS). These data are based on repeated surveys of up to 79,000 employers across all business sectors in England.

Table 2 shows information from the published 2007 National Employer Skills survey[1] on the number of organisations that had any staff undertaking an apprenticeship in the 12 months prior to interview, by size of employer.

Table 2: Percentage of employers that had any staff undertaking an apprenticeship in the last 12 months (NESS 2007)

	All employers	Number of employees or employer					
		2-4	5-24	25-99	100-199	200-499	500+
Employers that had any staff undertaking an apprenticeship over the previous 12 months (NESS 2007) (%)	8	5	10	15	18	25	33

[1] http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/nat-nessurvey2007mainreport-may08.pdf accessed on 4 February 2010.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many modern apprenticeships have been started in Leeds North West constituency since 1997. [319502]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 shows the number of Apprenticeship starts in Leeds North West parliamentary constituency from academic year 2003-04 onwards, the earliest year for which comparable data is available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts in Leeds North West parliamentary constituency, 2003-04 to 2008-09

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Leeds North West Parliamentary Constituency	190	160	160	190	240	220

Notes:
1. Figures for Leeds North West Parliamentary Constituency are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures are based upon home postcode of the learner.
3. Figures include Apprenticeships, Advanced Apprenticeships and Higher Level Apprenticeships.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of Apprenticeship starts by Parliamentary Constituency, Local Authority, Government Office Region and for England is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 17 December, and re-issued on 21 January to include provisional national estimates of the number of apprenticeship starts and achievements in the first quarter of 2009-10:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrdec09

Apprentices: Pay

David Davis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what the average starting salary is for students who have completed an apprenticeship through the National Apprenticeship Service; [318237]

(2) what the average annual earnings are for students undertaking an apprenticeship through the National Apprenticeship Service. [318238]

Kevin Brennan: Data on salaries of apprentices completing an apprenticeship framework are not available.

A survey of the pay of apprentices "Apprenticeship Pay: 2007 Survey of Earnings by sector"—DIUS Research Report 08 05, showed that the average net pay for an apprentice in England in 2007 was £170 per week. The report is available at:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/research_and_analysis/apprenticeship_pay

Broadband: South West

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to facilitate the provision in the South West of the access to broadband internet services as outlined in the Digital Britain report. [318865]

Mr. Timms: Since the publication of the Digital Britain Report, the Department has been working to ensure the delivery model for the Universal Service Commitment and the Next Generation project is appropriate. We hope to undertake the procurement exercise for the Universal Service Commitment by the autumn. This will help bring broadband access of 2 Mbps to every area in the UK by 2012, including the south-west.

We are aiming to legislate for the Landline Duty in the Finance Bill, and are currently consulting on the use of the Next Generation Fund in order to incentivise the market to deliver next generation broadband to 90 per cent. of UK households by 2017.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent on the (*a*) Accessing International Markets, (*b*) Grant for Business and Investment, (*c*) Export Credit Insurance, (*d*) Maximising Foreign Direct Insurance, (*e*) Developing Your International Trade Potential, (*f*) Business Collaboration Networks, (*g*) Business Premises, (*h*) Business Growth Specialist Facilities and Environments, (*i*) Starting a Business, (*j*) Intensive Start-up Support, (*k*) Starting a High Growth Business, (*l*) Manufacturing Advisory Service, (*m*) Designing Demand; (*n*) Innovation Advice and Guidance, (*o*) Coaching for High Growth, (*p*) Small Loans for Business, (*q*) Understanding Finance for Business, (*r*) Finance for Business, (*s*) Collaborative Research and Development, (*t*) Networking for Innovation, (*u*) Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, (*v*) Innovation Vouchers, (*w*) Low Carbon Energy Demonstration, (*x*) Improving Your Resource Efficiency and (*y*) Grant for Research and Development scheme in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09; and how many businesses have received assistance from that scheme in each of those years. [302098]

Mr. McFadden: These questions are currently under consideration by the regional development agencies following a Freedom of Information (FOI) request from the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford. He will be notified when the FOI has been answered and copies of the responses will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many performance reviews were undertaken in respect of staff of (*a*) his Department and (*b*) its predecessors in each of the last five years; in how many cases performance was rated as unsatisfactory or below; how many staff left as a direct result of such a rating; and what percentage of full-time equivalent staff this represented. [313830]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) ceased to exist on 5 June 2009 when the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created from the merger of BERR and the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). Each Department had a separate staff appraisal system.

The number of staff performance reviews undertaken for former staff in BERR is shown in the following table:

	Number of staff performance reviews undertaken	*Number of cases where performance was rated as unsatisfactory or below*
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	4,316	[1]—
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	4,382	[1]—
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	3,377	[1]—
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	2,938	0
1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	2,798	0

[1] The total is less than five and has been suppressed on the grounds of confidentiality.

The number of staff performance reviews undertaken for former staff in DIUS for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 is 753. BIS does not have access to information on the number of cases where performance was rated as unsatisfactory or below in DIUS, nor how many staff left as a direct result.

The BIS performance appraisal system involves the individual (jobholder) and line manager engaging in a continuous dialogue throughout a reporting year. Performance and development objectives are agreed at the start of a reporting year. There are informal and formal opportunities to discuss progress and challenges with a written record of outcomes agreed at the end of the reporting year.

It is the responsibility of line managers to manage and maintain the performance of their staff at, or above, an acceptable standard. Where it is believed that an individual's performance has reached a level that is unacceptable, then the situation is managed in accordance with the Department's poor performance procedures and guidance.

The Civil Service Management Code sets outs regulations and instructions to Departments and agencies regarding the terms and conditions of service of civil servants and the delegations which have been made by the Minister for the Civil Service under the Civil Service (Management of Functions) Act 1992 together with the conditions attached to those delegations.

It is a requirement under the code that all staff are subject to performance reviews and that Departments and agencies must have procedures in place to deal with inefficiency/poor performance.

6.2.1 of the code deals with staff in the delegated grades; 6.2.5, non-delegated (i.e. the SCS). The code is available at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/csmc/index.aspx

Departmental Official Hospitality

John Mason: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on Ministerial hospitality in (*a*) 2004-05, (*b*) 2005-06, (*c*) 2006-07 and (*d*) 2007-08, expressed in current prices. [316838]

Mr. McFadden: The amounts spent on ministerial hospitality are as follows:

	£
2004/05	17,071.11
2005/06	17,102.17
2006/07	6,282.69
2007/08	17,194.12

The above costs principally relate to conferences and receptions for key stakeholders.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many job vacancies in his Department and its agencies were filled through external recruitment in the last 12 months. [315289]

Mr. McFadden: There were 34 job vacancies that were filled through external recruitment in the last 12 months. This number includes all types of payroll vacancies apart from those recruited on short-term casual contracts as this data is not collated centrally.

The Department of Business Innovation and Skills was formed in June 2009. The data we have provided relate to 1 April 2009 to March 2010 financial year which includes the former Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) only. We do not have data relating to the former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) as their external recruitment was delivered by another Government Department.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Tim Moss:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 29 January 2010, UIN 315289, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House filled 23 job vacancies through external recruitment in the last 12 months.

Letter from Stephen Speed:

The Minister of State, for the Department Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question how many job vacancies in his Department and its agencies were filled through external recruitment in the last 12 months.

In the Insolvency Service, 273 job vacancies were filled through external recruitment during the last 12 months.

Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 4 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 29 January 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Since 1 February 2009 the Intellectual Property Office has carried out 23 external recruitment exercises for 26 vacancies.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 4 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 29 January 2010 asking the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking how many job vacancies were filled through external recruitment in the last 12 months.

We have filled four vacancies following external recruitment exercises during this period, in all cases following an unsuccessful attempt to fill the post by advertising within the Civil Service.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many thefts from his Department have been recorded in the last two years. [318986]

Mr. McFadden: During the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2009, 207 items were reported as missing on this Department's and its predecessors central London estate. The Department records items as missing as it is not always possible to prove theft as the reason for the loss of items and many items reported are subsequently found.

The figure includes small, low value personal items.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish the travel guidance issued to staff of each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies. [314926]

Mr. McFadden: I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to my hon. Friend directly.

Travel guidance issued to the staff of the Department's non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For travel guidance issued to NDPB staff, the chief executive of each body should be contacted. A list of the Department's NDPBs can be found at the following link, under BERR's and DIUS's public bodies directories 2009:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/aboutus/corporate/performance/annual-spending/page27140.html

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 26 February 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 28 January 2010, UIN 314926 to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House follows the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills published guidelines for its own travel guidance issued to staff.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 26 February 2010:

The Minister of State, for the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has asked me to reply to your question if he will publish the travel guidance issued to staff of each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies.

Travel guidance is in the Insolvency Service staff handbook (Employment Matters) and this is published on the Intranet. It is planned that this will also be published on the Insolvency Service's Internet site within the next six weeks in accordance with the Freedom of Information publishing requirements.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 26 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 28 January asking the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, about the travel guidance issued to staff in the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies.

Please find attached the travel guidance issued to NMO staff.

NMO Guidance on Managing and Authorizing Staff Travel

Managing and authorising staff travel

The nature of the Agency's work means that there is a need for some staff to undertake business travel on occasions.

Given the substantial impact that travel costs have on the Agency's budget, and to minimise environmental damage through CO_2 emissions, business travel should be kept to a minimum.

Budget Holders, line managers, staff and finance all have a role to play and this section sets out these roles.

Budget Holders

The role of Budget holders, in particular Business Team Managers, is to make sure that:

budget estimates for travel and subsistence are based on a critical and realistic assessment of need,

line managers work within the budget ceiling

there is flexibility in the allocation of funds between line managers

regular information is made available to enable effective management of staff travel.

staff take full advantage of the services and discounts available from departmental travel providers.

Line managers

Line managers are responsible for:

day-to-day authorisation of travel requests (where they have specific delegated authority)

day-to-day approval of claims

keeping the cost of travel and subsistence within their delegated authorities

deciding who carries out particular tasks involving travel communicating the need to plan travel responsibly and minimise travel costs.

As part of their role line managers need to consider whether travelling is really necessary to meet specific work objectives.

If travel is absolutely necessary, particular attention should be paid to:

the number and grades of staff travelling

the frequency and duration of travel.

Line managers are responsible for deciding who carries out specific travel-related activities, and should ensure that travel is conducted by the most suitable method available, with consideration for the cost incurred and the environmental impact.

Line managers should use the information on claim forms to check:

the agreed method of travel was used

allowances claimed are correct and comply with departmental rules

overall costs (in time and money) were kept to a minimum.

Line managers must make sure that staff:

inform them of the purpose and details of all visits in advance of booking travel, to help control costs

plan travel efficiently, for instance arranging a full day's appointments in one location

rather than visit on two successive part-days

plan itineraries to reduce costs and/or mileage

book early to secure whatever cheaper fares are available and take advantage of offers available through recognised booking agents and operators

Travellers and travel bookers

Travellers and travel bookers must make sure that any staff travel arrangements make the best overall use of official time, fares and subsistence. It is the responsibility of the traveller to ensure that they have adequate funds, the correct form is completed (with receipts attached) and to obtain authorisation before submitting to finance for payment. Payment may be delayed if the form is not completed adequately.

In order to choose the most appropriate method of travel, travellers should bear in mind the following:

Staff who would normally qualify for first-class rail travel should consider travelling second class where the dearer fare offers no practical advantage, eg for short journeys and for longer journeys on routes which are known not to be crowded.

For staff required to travel 6500 miles or more by car each year it is as cheap to provide a lease car as to pay standard rate mileage allowance. For staff with an annual mileage of 9000 miles and above, a lease car can provide savings of up to a third.

Self-drive hire as a short-term measure may sometimes be the most economical option.

Taxis can be cost-effective for short journeys. Used discriminately, they can save much official time, especially with more than one person travelling. However, travellers should make sensible choices based on comparisons with available public transport before opting for travel by taxi.

Car sharing will substantially reduce travel costs.

For longer journeys travel by air is usually cheaper, taking into account savings in travelling time and overnight subsistence. Similarly, overnight sleeper services can cut travel costs.

Where there is a need to work on a Journey rail travel offers advantages which may outweigh the savings from cheaper forms of travel

All staff should try and share examples of best practice.

Finance

It is the responsibility of the Finance team to:

check that claims follow guidance and that they have received all the necessary documentation required to make payment and to enable the correct Business Team and service to be charged and follow up any insufficient documentation;

keep records for audit purposes; and

make payment.

Letter from John Alty, dated 1 March 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Offic to your Parliamentary Question tabled 28 January 2010, to th Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation an Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) is a Trading Fund an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovatio and Skills. The IPO publishes its travel guidance to staff via it staff handbook, on its internal intranet site.

Early Retirement

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State Department for Business, Innovation and Skills wha estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* males and *(b)* females who have taken involuntary earl retirement in the last 12 months. [313647

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS), estimates that five people in the Department have taken involuntary early retirement in the last 12 months but further details cannot be given on the grounds of confidentiality.

Flexible Working: Carers

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people have applied to their employer for flexible working arrangements to assist them with their caring responsibilities in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [317336]

Mr. McFadden: The new employment rights introduced in April 2003 gave parents of children under six and disabled children under 18 the right to request flexible working; this was extended to carers in April 2007 and parents of children aged 16 and under in April 2009. There are no requirements for either employers or employees to notify the department when requests are made to work flexibly. The department does not have the requested information for the past 12 months, nor does the department have evidence on the number of requests accepted or rejected by carers since 2007.

However, the department conducts periodic sample surveys to estimate the proportions of employees making requests to change their regular working hours and the proportion of such requests accepted or rejected. The most recent employee survey (Third Work Life Balance Employees' Survey) was conducted in 2006, before the implementation of the extension of the right to request to carers. Table 1 presents the findings from the 2006 Survey.

Employees with parental responsibilities (defined as having dependent children aged under 19): in 2006, 20 per cent. of working parents (employees with dependent children undue nine years old) had made a request to change their regular working pattern during the previous two years, and 80% of requests had been accepted.

Employees with adult caring responsibilities (defined as looking after sick, disabled or elderly adults): in 2006, 26 per cent. of employees with adult caring responsibilities had made a request to change their working pattern, with 79 per cent. of requests accepted (11 per cent. rejected).

Table 1: Request made to employer to change how they work at some point over previous two years, employees; Outcome of request by parental status and adult caring responsibilities

(percentage)

	Request made to change how regularly worked during the previous two years[1]	*Requests accepted by employer*[2] *(fully and partially)*	*Request declined by employer*[3]
All employees	17	78	17
Employees with dependent children[4]	20	80	17
Adult carers[5] (employees)	26	79	11

[1] Over the last two years, have you approached your current employer to make a request to change how you regularly work for a sustained period of time

[2] Was your request to change the way you regularly work agreed to?

[3] Not all requests had an outcome by the time of the survey

[4] Parental status is defined in the survey as having dependent children aged 18 or less.[5] Adult carers are defined as people who look after adults who are sick, disabled or elderly, whether they live with the carer or not

Source:

Third Work-Life Balance Survey 2006. (2,081 employees across Great Britain)

Fujitsu: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has received representations on the recent dispute between Fujitsu and Fujitsu employees on redundancies, levels of pay and company pensions policy. [314710]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has received a small number of letters about the rationalisation programme announced by Fujitsu Services last August, and the related dispute with some of its employees. The resolution of a dispute is a matter for the parties concerned, with the assistance of ACAS available, where both parties request their intervention.

Further and Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many places there were in *(a)* further and *(b)* higher education institutions in academic year 2008-09. [319177]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 26 February 2010]:* In 2008/09 academic year (provisional), 4,756,600 learners participated in Learning and Skills Council funded learning (excluding Higher Education and school sixth forms).[1]

In 2008/09 there were 2,005,845 students enrolled at English Higher Education Institutions (including the Open University).[2]

Sources:

[1] Individualised Learner Record. Includes participation in further education provision, Apprenticeships, Train to Gain, Adult Safeguarded Learning and University for Industry.

[2] Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Further Education: Finance

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to simplify the arrangements for funding of colleges; and if he will make a statement. [319159]

Kevin Brennan: As set out in "Skills for Growth" (November 2009), the Government are committed to simplifying the further education (FE) and skills landscape. We will reduce the number of separate publicly-funded agencies, and the funding and monitoring of FE colleges will be undertaken through a simpler and lighter touch approach.

From April 2010, the Skills Funding Agency will have responsibility for allocating and delivering funding to colleges to support the training of adults (aged 19 and over). Each college and training organisation funded through the Skills Funding Agency will have a single contact point through their account manager.

From 2010/11 academic year there will be greater flexibility for colleges and training organisations in managing post 19 funding within budget streams.

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department paid to the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last five years; how much it has spent on such payments in 2009-10; and what proportion of such payments was made in respect of the Government Car Service. [316421]

Mr. McFadden: This Department and its predecessors have paid the following amounts to the Government Car and Despatch Agency for the use of the Government Mail Service:

	£000
2004/05	271.7
2005/06	256.7
2006/07	235.2
2007/08	283.9
2008/09	276.9
2009/10[1]	241.5

[1] To end January.

Costs of ministerial cars are reported annually to Parliament by my noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport through written ministerial statement and are available in the Libraries of the House.

Hotels

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in each of the last five years. [305672]

Mr. McFadden: Following a machinery of government change the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills was formed in June 2009. The following figures relate to the Departments before the merger.

The amount spent by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on hotel accommodation for in each of the last five years was:

	£
2004/05	881,845
2005/06	959,798
2006/07	929,210
2007/08	1,051,965
2008/09	1,769,921

The figures include Department of Trade and Industry spend until it was disbanded in June 2007.

The amount spent by the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills on hotel accommodation since it was formed in 2007 was:

	£
July 2007 to March 2008	106,608
2008/09	256,885

Travel by Ministers, civil servants and special advisers are undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively.

The Department does not separately record overnight accommodation from that of officials—to provide this information would entail disproportionate costs.

Cabinet Office provides an annual list of overseas travel over £500 undertaken by Ministers. These can be accessed at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

The list for 2008-09 was published on 16 July. This and earlier lists are available in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many separate bookings for stays at five star or above hotels were made through the Expotel contract by his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [315262]

Mr. McFadden: Following a machinery of government change the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills was formed in June 2009. The following figures include former BERR and DIUS before the merger.

The number of bookings for stays at five star and above hotels made through the Expotel contract for the period January to December 2009

Number of bookings	*Cost (£)*
297	43,070

Note:
Figures include overseas bookings

Wherever possible Expotel will book accommodation within indicative rates set by the Department; this may include five star hotels which have special offers available and fall within these rates.

All expenditure incurred is in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook.

Insolvency

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what record *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies keep of fees paid to insolvency practitioners. [315180]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not record details of the fees paid to insolvency practitioners.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 8 February 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 28 January 2010, UIN 315180, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House has no record of any fees paid to Insolvency Practitioners.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 15 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 29 January 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking what record is kept of fees paid to insolvency practitioners.

The nature of the National Measurement Office's business, and that of its predecessor the National Weights & Measures Laboratory, means that there should be no need to pay any fees to insolvency practitioners, and there are no records of us having done so. Should there be occasion to pay such fees we would expect to register them separately in our accounting records through the creation of a new account code.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 2 February 2010:

The Minister of State, for the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has asked me to reply to your question what record (a) his Department and (b) its agencies keeps of fees paid to insolvency practitioners.

In corporate insolvencies, the officeholder is required to file receipts and payments accounts or statement of accounts with the Registrar of Companies. In Individual Voluntary Arrangements, the Supervisor is required to send a final receipts and payments account to the Secretary of State.

This information is not extracted or collated into a central record.

Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 2 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 29 January 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office maintains records of all payments and has paid no fees to insolvency practitioners.

Paid Leave: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the number of residents of *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point who qualify for paid leave entitlements. [318108]

Mr. McFadden: All workers resident in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point qualify for paid annual leave entitlements. The statutory minimum as set out in the working time regulations is at least 5.6 weeks.

Numbers of workers resident in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point are not available. However, according to the Annual Business Inquiry Employee Analysis by the

Office for National Statistics, there were a total of 517,900 employees who worked in Essex and 19,300 in Castle Point (but did not necessarily live there) in 2008, who would all qualify for paid annual leave entitlement.

Maternity Leave: Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what percentage of women resident in Feltham and Heston constituency have taken 26 weeks maternity leave since 1997. [316698]

Mr. McFadden: From April 2007 all employed mothers are entitled to 52 weeks maternity leave, of which 39 may be paid. Employers are not required to record or report the uptake of maternity leave to the Government. No figures are available at the constituency level.

The most recent estimates of take-up of maternity leave are based on the DWP 'Maternity Rights and Mothers' employment decisions in Britain: Survey of Mothers' (2007). In 2006, when mothers included in the study went on maternity leave, the statutory entitlement to ordinary maternity leave (OML) was 26 weeks, while mothers who had worked for their employer for a qualifying period of 26 weeks were also entitled to additional maternity leave (AML) of 26 weeks. For mothers taking maternity leave in 2006:

84 per cent. took 26 weeks or more maternity leave;

35 per cent. took exactly 26 weeks maternity leave;

46 per cent. of mothers took between 27 and 52 weeks and only 3 per cent. were off for more than 52 weeks;

16 per cent of mothers took less than the statutory minimum entitlement (i.e. 26 weeks in 2006).

The next 'Maternity Rights' survey will be based on mothers who took maternity leave starting in summer 2008. It is due to report in 2010.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to respond to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 23 November 2009 on the future of Cadbury. [319249]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 26 February 2010]:* I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay. My colleague the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business and Regulatory Reform has responded today, as the matter falls within his portfolio.

Minimum Wage: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point who have been paid at the rate of the national minimum wage since its introduction. [318105]

Mr. McFadden: Data for earnings are not available at the county or constituency level because of small sample sizes at these levels in the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE).

Due to rounding in the conversion of payroll data into hourly wage rates and small sample sizes for 16 to 17 and 18 to 21-year-olds in ASHE, it is not possible at the regional level to infer the number of employees earning exactly at the national minimum wage (NMW) with sufficient certainty. However it is possible to estimate the number who were paid at or below the NMW.

At the Government office region level the most recent figure from BIS analysis of the 2009 ASHE indicates the number of jobholders who were paid at or below the NMW in April 2009 in the east of England region was 64,000.

Music: Copyright

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the Government response to the consultation on changes to exemptions from public performance rights in sound recordings and performers' rights, and pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood of 1 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 101W, on religious practice: buildings, whether recorded music used in divine service such as funerals, baptisms and weddings by *(a)* the Church of England and *(b)* places of religious worship certified by the Registrar General under the Places of Religious Worship Act 1855 will require a public performance licence under the proposed Option 1 changes; and what role he has played in the consideration of these changes. [318314]

Mr. Lammy: The proposed changes to the current charitable statutory exemptions for the public performance of recorded and broadcast music will apply to music used in divine worship by the Church of England or places of worship as certified. However, as part of this process, Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL), the organisation who license the public performance and broadcast of sound recordings, have agreed to implement a voluntary exemption for the use of broadcast and recorded music not only as part of divine worship anywhere but also for all religious ceremonies, civil ceremonies and civil partnership ceremonies; domestic/family occasions such as wedding parties; residential homes/hospices (not including staff areas); hospital wards and medical therapy.

The Government fully consulted on this matter, taking into account legal advice and an impact assessment prepared by Europe Economics, and negotiated a number of safeguards including a system of joint licensing, a code of practice and an independent complaints ombudsman. I have been involved at all key stages of the consultation and officials have kept me informed throughout. I considered this matter extensively before writing to the Economic Development Committee on 2 July 2009 for clearance. I received clearance for the publication of the Government response and the proposed repeal of the charitable exemptions on 24 July 2009.

Qualifications: North East

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the working age population in *(a)* Newcastle upon Tyne Central constituency, *(b)* Newcastle upon Tyne, *(c)* Tyne and Wear and *(d)* the North East region (i) had no qualifications, (ii) were qualified to level 2 and (iii) were qualified to level 4 in (A) 2001 and (B) each year since 2004. [318809]

Kevin Brennan: The table shows the proportion of the working age population in Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear Local Education Authority, and the North East region qualified to at least level 4, 3, 2, below Level 2 and with no qualifications.

These estimates are taken from the Annual Population Survey (APS). The APS sample is not large enough to provide estimates for smaller geographies such as constituencies, but it is suitable for Local Education Areas estimates. However, please note that these estimates are subject to sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their Confidence Intervals (CIs), which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a CI of +/- 2.7 percentage points (pp) means that the true value is between 2.7pp above the estimate and 2.7pp below the estimate.

Estimates of qualification levels in regions and local areas from 2000 to 2008 are published on the Further Education Data Service website at:

http://www.thedataservice.org/uk/NR/rdonlyres/AC4DC94B-54F2-4F31-A7FF-E4E08C2210C4/0/TABLESFORWEBAPSsupplementarytablesbrokendownbylocallevelrevised25Aug.xls

The 2009 estimates are due to be published in July this year.

Table 1: Highest qualification of population aged 16 to 59/64 (percentages)

Proportion with highest qualification level at:	*Area*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2008 95 per cent Confidence Interval (percentage points)*
Level 4 or above	North East	18.5	19.4	20.8	21.9	21.4	22.7	24.3	23.9	+/- 0.8
	Newcastle Upon Tyne	25.0	26.0	28.0	26.9	24.6	27.9	30.4	27.3	+/- 2.7
	Tyne and Wear	19.0	20.6	21.5	21.6	21.1	23.0	25.1	24.1	+/- 1.2
Level 3 or above	North East	37.8	38.7	39.7	41.0	41.2	43.6	45.0	44.8	+/- 0.9
	Newcastle Upon Tyne	43.9	46.7	47.2	45.4	44.3	51.2	52.6	52.0	+/- 3.0
	Tyne and Wear	38.3	40.4	40.4	40.7	40.6	42.7	45.6	45.3	+/- 1.4
Level 2 or above	North East	60.2	61.5	62.0	63.9	65.5	67.2	68.5	66.7	+/- 0.8
	Newcastle Upon Tyne	63.6	67.3	65.1	64.6	66.2	70.8	70.1	71.1	+/- 2.7
	Tyne and Wear	60.8	63.1	61.8	63.2	65.0	66.1	68.5	68.5	+/- 1.3
Below level 2	North East	20.1	20.1	20.2	19.1	19.1	18.7	17.7	17.9	+/- 0.7
	Newcastle Upon Tyne	16.8	14.8	16.9	16.2	17.6	16.9	16.5	15.6	+/- 2.2
	Tyne and Wear	19.8	19.6	20.7	19.6	20.2	19.4	17.8	18.1	+/- 1.1
No qualifications	North East	19.7	18.3	17.9	17.0	15.4	14.2	13.8	13.4	+/- 0.6
	Newcastle Upon Tyne	19.6	17.8	18.0	19.2	16.2	12.3	13.3	13.3	+/- 2.0
	Tyne and Wear	19.4	17.3	17.5	17.2	14.8	14.5	13.7	13.4	+/- 0.9

Base:
16 to 59/64-year-olds
Source:
Annual Population Survey

Skilled Workers: Construction

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to promote the Construction Skills Certification Scheme. [319690]

Ian Lucas: The Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) is an industry initiative. The Government welcome the scheme's aims which are to improve competence and good health and safety practice in the construction industry, and to encourage the achievement of relevant formal qualifications by industry employees. The construction pages on the Department's website refer to the work of the CSCS and equivalent schemes and provides a link to the CSCS website. That said, the Government have no role in setting the scheme's rules, and do not undertake promotional activity for the scheme.

Snow and Ice

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department arising from the severe weather conditions in the period 4 to 18 January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [313581]

Mr. McFadden: This Department considers that it had only notional costs arising from the severe weather conditions for the period from 2 January to 18 January 2010, and has not made any calculations.

CABINET OFFICE

Census

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 310W, on Census: training, what the provisional number of specialist field staff is who will be trained to caution people under the Police and Criminal Evidence Code of Practice for Interview provisions. [318303]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As the Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking pursuant to the Answer of 2 February 2010, Official Report, column 310W, on Census: training, what the provisional number of specialist field staff is who will be trained to caution people under the Police and Criminal Evidence Code of Practice for Interview provisions. (318303)

The provisional number of specialist field staff who will be trained to caution people under the Police and Criminal Evidence Code of Practice for Interview provisions is 60, although this number is currently under review.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 796, on the 2011 census, if she will place in the Library the evidential basis for the statement that the value of the Census is £700 million; and by what methodology such evidence was gathered. [318329]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2010:

As the Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 796, on the 2011 Census, whether the evidential basis for the statement that the value of the census is £700 million will be placed in the Library; and by what methodology such evidence was gathered. (318329)

The quantified benefit of the census is currently estimated to be £750 million. However, this is considered to be a very significant under-estimate. A full business case for the 2011 Census has been produced and scrutinised by HM Treasury and the Office of Government Commerce. It is due to be published this Spring and will be available on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website. The business case clearly demonstrates the unique value of the census, and that the benefits of having the information far outweigh the costs of its collection and processing and formed the basis for the Minister's statement.

ONS provided further information on this point to the Lord's Committee on the Merits of Statutory Instruments in October 2009 when the Committee examined the Draft Census (England and Wales) Order 2009, which was included in their 29th Report of Session 2008-2009 (Appendix 1) published on 5 November 2009. The relevant sections of this stated that:

A wide range of users rely heavily on census results for a countless range of purposes. The six broad purposes for which they use census data are:

resource allocation;

targeting investment;

service planning;

policy making and monitoring;

academic and market research; and

as a benchmark for other National Statistics.

Extensive work has been undertaken to quantify the benefits of the census in financial terms. For example, if census data were not available, the £82 billion allocated each year by the Department of Health to each Primary Care Trust (PCT), would be based on data using existing information available within the NHS. Detailed analysis has shown that using such lower quality data sources would result in over £800 million being misallocated per year, with some individual PCTs gaining, or losing, to the tune of millions of pounds. Clearly, the net cost to HM Treasury of such misallocation would be zero, but the costs to society would be significant, resulting in significant discrepancies in the services available in different areas. Clearly, attributing a financial value to this cost to society is very difficult, but using standard economic methods that work on the premise that "a pound in your pocket is worth more if you're poor than if you're rich," a cost to society of £600 million over the decade has been estimated. Adding in similar quantified benefits for funding allocations to local authorities from the Department for Communities and Local Government, and private sector benefits (assessed through improved decision making about the location of retail stores and the use of census data by market researchers) the quantified benefits of the census amount to over £750 million over the decade between censuses.

Furthermore these quantified benefits relate to only three of the six types of use of census data. When considering that over 500 organisations responded to the census topics consultation, that there are a further three very significant key uses of census data and that the Online Neighbourhood Statistics Service (just one route of access to census data) has over 100,000 hits per month, the unquantified benefits will be very substantial.

The quantified discounted benefit of circa £750 million is therefore considered to be a very significant under-estimate.

Charities: Registration

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what categories of charity are exempt from registration. [319672]

Angela E. Smith: Within England and Wales, three categories of charity are not currently required to register with the Charity Commission:

Small charities with an annual income of below £5,000.

Excepted charities with an income below £100,000 are regulated by, but not registered with, the Charity Commission (although there is provision in the Charities Act 2006 for them to register voluntarily). The main groups of these charities are Parochial Church Councils, churches from certain Christian religious denominations, local scout and guide groups, and armed forces service non-public funds. Exception is conferred by Order of the Commission or the Secretary of State.

Exempt charities, which are not registered with the Charity Commission and are currently not subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of the Charity Commission. Examples of such charities include universities, Boards of Trustees of certain museums and galleries, Kew Gardens, and charitable Industrial and Provident Societies. Most categories of exempt charities are defined by Schedule 2 to the Charities Act 1993 ("the 1993 Act"). In a few cases, exempt status has been conferred on some charities by other Acts of Parliament.

The Charities Act 2006 contains provisions to improve the regulation of exempt charities as charities. Some groups of exempt charities will remain exempt but with an existing "principal regulator" promoting charity law compliance. Other groups of exempt charities will cease to be exempt and will become excepted charities.

Civil Servants: Recruitment

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many job vacancies were advertised on the Civil Service Online service in the last 12 months; and how many such vacancies were advertised on the *(a)* public and *(b)* internal part of that site. [318123]

Angela E. Smith: Government Departments and executive agencies have delegated responsibility for recruitment advertising Departments and agencies determine whether a vacancy should be advertised internally within the civil service or externally.

During the period 22 February 2009 and 21 February 2010 a total of 15,482 vacancies have been advertised on the Civil Service Online service, of which 9,860 vacancies have been advertised to the public and 5,622 have been advertised internally on the site.

Civil Servants: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for what reasons the Defence Police Federation has not been consulted on proposed changes to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. [318479]

Tessa Jowell: My statement of 3 February, *Official Report*, column 11WS-13WS, announced changes to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme and the process which led up to those changes. The Cabinet Office invited comments on its original proposals in July 2009 and received responses from the Defence Police Federation as well as from over 18,000 civil servants, unions, employers and others; the points made in all these submissions were considered in drawing up the Government's revised reforms. The Cabinet Office has also held discussions at a national level with the Council of Civil Service Unions (CCSU) in line with established practice. The Secretary of State for Defence wrote to the General Secretary of the Defence Police Federation in September 2009 proposing he discuss with the Secretary of the CCSU involving the Federation in national consultations (while recognising that the Federation is an independent staff association rather than a trade union).

Departmental Energy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Office has plans to take to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. [319179]

Angela E. Smith: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of Cabinet Office.

The Cabinet Office will be participating in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010.

Departmental Leave

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood of 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 312W, on civil servants: leave, what the standard allocation of days leave was for a civil servant in the Cabinet Office, in terms of *(a)* annual leave, *(b)* bank holidays and *(c)* privilege days in 2008-09. [318304]

Angela E. Smith: The leave allowance for all civil servants in the Cabinet Office is *(a)* annual leave 30 days, *(b)* bank holidays eight days and *(c)* privilege days two and a half days.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many Downing Street staff received a bonus payment in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [318247]

Angela E. Smith: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1061W, and to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) on 2 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 901W.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much was spent on the *(a)* buildings and *(b)* insurance of buildings and staff of the Leader of the House's Office in each of the last four years. [317268]

Angela E. Smith: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons occupies space in 26 Whitehall and forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office estate. It is not possible to separately identify building costs attributed solely to the Leader's office.

The Cabinet Office acts as its own insurer.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* printing, *(b)* distributing and *(c)* producing the text of document Putting the frontline first: smarter Government; and what the cost to the public purse was of the promotion of that document. [319144]

Angela E. Smith: The total printing and production costs of Smarter Government were £37,292 including the distribution of hard copies to Parliament and the Stationery Office. A bespoke multimedia website was also designed at a cost of £6,972.54. The content was produced internally by civil servants, and it is not possible to disaggregate this cost from the cost of other work undertaken by these officials. The only promotion costs incurred were the printing of two banners at £792.

Departmental Security

David Davis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what security measures her Department plans to put in place in respect of its internal cloud computing system. [318240]

Angela E. Smith: Cabinet Office does not have an internal cloud computing system. Information Communication Technology (ICT) provision for the Cabinet Office is via the Government Flex system which provides a suite of conventional services that meet the security requirements of the Cabinet Office.

As part of the Government ICT Strategy published in January 2010, the Cabinet Office is developing the high level vision and design for a future Government Cloud (G-Cloud). The security measures necessary to appropriately secure the G-Cloud are part of this on-going design work.

Employment: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many people are employed in the manufacturing sector in *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* Lancashire; [319340]

(2) how many people are employed in the agricultural sector in *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* Lancashire. [319341]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated February 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people are employed in the manufacturing sector in (a) Chorley and (b) Lancashire; and how many people are employed in the agricultural sector in (a) Chorley and (b) Lancashire. I am replying in his absence. (319340 & 319341)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Unfortunately the sample size does not support analyses of employment by industry for the requested geographies.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Government Departments: Information Officers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many marketing and communications staff were employed in the Civil Service in each of the last 10 years. [318126]

Tessa Jowell: This information is not collected centrally. Each Government Department, agency and NDPB is responsible for its own communications staff structures, and each Secretary of State is responsible to Parliament.

Government Departments: Telephone Services

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 317W, on Government departments: telephone services, if she will place in the Library a full copy of the survey data and report; and what the timetable is for the publication of the summary of results. [318305]

Angela E. Smith: The survey data is currently being validated by Departments and when that is completed a report will be made available. The summary of results is to be included in the next set of documents to be loaded onto the Cabinet Office website.

Lobbying: Regulation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether her Department's review of the regulation of lobbying included an assessment of membership of the Association of Professional Political Consultants, the Public Relations Consultants Association and the Chartered Institute of Public Relations. [318342]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the right hon. Member to the debate on lobbying in Westminster Hall on 7 January 2010. Membership of the relevant bodies concerned is a matter for the relevant bodies.

Opposition Policies

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will place in the Library a copy of the guidance note on costing Opposition policies; and on what date that guidance was last updated. [318252]

Tessa Jowell: Guidance on costing the policies of Opposition parties is a long-standing convention that has been followed by successive Governments. The guidance is set out in Volume 1 of the "Directory of Civil Service Guidance". A copy will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Population

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the population density was of *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in (i) 1960, (ii) 1970, (iii) 1980, (iv) 1990, (v) 2000 and (vi) 2010; and what estimate she has made of the population density in each of those areas in (A) 2020, (B) 2030 and (C) 2050. [319821]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what the population density was of (a) England, (b) Scotland, (c) Wales and (d) Northern Ireland in (i) 1960, (ii) 1970, (iii) 1980, (iv) 1990, (v) 2000 and (vi) 2010; and what estimate has been made of the population density in each of those areas in (A) 2020, (B) 2030 and (C) 2050. (319821)

The attached table shows population density, calculated for each mid-year, as requested. Figures for 1960 to the year 2000 are derived using mid-year population estimates and the relevant land area. Figures for 2010 to 2050 are derived using 2008-based national population projections and assume land areas for the UK constituent countries remain constant into the future.

Population density for constituent countries of the United Kingdom for selected years

Persons per sq km

	1960[1]	1970[1]	1980[1]	1990[1]	2000[1]	2010[2]	2020[2]	2030[2]	2050[2]
England	[3]...	353	359	366	378	401	430	459	504
Wales	[3]...	131	136	138	140	145	153	160	168
Scotland	66	67	67	65	65	67	69	71	71

Population density for constituent countries of the United Kingdom for selected years

Persons per sq km

	1960[1]	1970[1]	1980[1]	1990[1]	2000[1]	2010[2]	2020[2]	2030[2]	2050[2]
Northern Ireland	105	113	113	118	124	133	141	147	153

[1] Population densities are derived using mid-year population estimates and the relevant land area.

[2] Population densities are derived using 2008-based population projections, assuming constant land area for the UK constituent countries into the future.

[3] Population estimates for 1960 are not available, separately for England and Wales.

Sources:

Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Self-employed: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were recorded as self-employed in Milton Keynes in each year since 1997. [319009]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated February 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were recorded as self-employed in Milton Keynes in each year since 1997. I am replying in his absence. (319009)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local

areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the Annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 shows the number of self-employed persons resident in Milton Keynes for the 12 month periods ending in February 1998 to 2004 from the Annual LFS and for the

12 month periods ending in March 2005 to 2009 from the APS. The latest available estimate, for the 12 months ending June 2009 from the APS, has also been included.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS and Annual LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is given in table 1.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number[1] of self-employed persons resident in Milton Keynes

	Thousand
February 1998	13
February 1999	10
February 2000	6
February 2001	8
February 2002	9
February 2003	10
February 2004	13
March 2005	12
March 2006	12
March 2007	12
March 2008	10
March 2009	12
June 2009	***11

[1] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

KEY Coefficient of Variation (CV)(%) Statistical Robustness

* $0 \leq CV < 5$ Estimates are considered precise

** $5 \leq CV < 10$ Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** $10 \leq CV < 20$ Estimates are considered acceptable

**** $CV \geq 20$ Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Population Survey/Annual Labour Force Survey

Social Mobility

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what assessment she has made of the effect on individual social mobility of previous criminal convictions; [318752]

(2) if she will take steps to increase the level of social mobility for those with previous convictions. [319419]

Angela E. Smith: The Government are committed to building fairer chances for everyone to succeed in the new economy by boosting social mobility in the U.K. The Government's approach to social mobility takes a holistic view and considers the early years support, schooling, training and academic study, family life and community empowerment, all as being very important in shaping aspirations and achievements of individuals. While those who have criminal convictions have not been the specific focus of this work, the Government's approach aims to support everyone to achieve their potential.

Teenage Pregnancy

Tim Loughton: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many pregnancies of girls aged between 15 and 19 years there were in England in each year since 1987. [319363]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent question asking the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many pregnancies of girls aged between 15 and 19 years there were in England in each year since 1987. I am replying in his absence. (319363).

Figures on conceptions are estimates based on the number of live births, stillbirths or legal abortions. They do not include miscarriages and illegal abortions.

The table attached provides the number of conceptions among girls aged 15 to 19 years in England in each year from 1992 to 2008 (the most recent year for which figures are available). Comparable figures for 1987 to 1991 are not readily available.

Conceptions[1] to women aged 15 to 19 years[2] in England[3], 1992-2008[4]

Number of conceptions

	Age at conception					
	15	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19*	*Total*
1992	4,870	11,148	17,269	23,627	28,853	85,767
1993	4,786	10,322	16,371	21,948	26,255	79,682
1994	5,103	10,602	15,901	21,192	25,036	77,834
1995	5,435	11,553	16,334	20,973	24,715	79,010
1996	5,984	13,318	19,028	22,581	25,630	86,541
1997	5,508	13,118	19,638	24,048	25,410	87,722
1998	5,612	12,820	20,414	26,213	27,822	92,881
1999	5,281	12,477	19,362	24,888	28,311	90,319
2000	5,472	12,323	18,757	24,518	28,263	89,333
2001	5,241	12,232	18,759	24,169	27,488	87,889
2002	5,275	12,672	19,283	24,330	27,529	89,089
2003	5,466	12,485	19,510	24,983	28,071	90,515
2004	5,205	12,779	19,633	25,647	29,815	93,079
2005	5,435	12,531	19,800	26,287	30,110	94,163
2006	5,401	12,301	19,539	26,768	30,862	94,871
2007	5,571	12,795	19,853	27,181	32,351	97,751
2008	5,219	12,209	19,434	26,746	31,340	94,948

[1] Figures on conceptions are estimates based on the number of live births, stillbirths or legal abortions. They do not include miscarriages and illegal abortions.

[2] Age at estimated date of conception.

[3] Women usually resident in England. Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[4] Figures for 2008 are provisional.

Unemployment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 167-68W, on unemployment, how many economically inactive people of working age wanted employment in *(a)* each of the last 10 years and *(b)* each of the last eight quarters. [318949]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated February 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many economically inactive people of working age wanted employment in (a) each of the last ten years and (b) each of the last eight quarters. I am replying in his absence. (318949)

Estimates of economic inactivity are available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). In accordance with the International Labour Organization (ILO) definition, people are classed as economically inactive if they are neither in employment nor unemployed.

The estimates provided in the attached table are for economically inactive people of working age who wanted a job. They comprise those who have not been looking for work in the last four weeks, but who say they would like a regular paid job, plus those who have been looking for work but who were unable to start within two weeks. The estimates have been seasonally adjusted.

These estimates are published in Table 13 of the monthly Labour Market Statistical Bulletin.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. Indications of the sampling variability of LFS aggregate estimates are provided in the Statistical Bulletin.

Economically inactive people of working age[1] who want a job[2], United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted

	Total (thousand)
October to December quarter	
2000	2,228
2001	2,260
2002	2,243
2003	2,123
2004	2,014
2005	2,062
2006	2,095
2007	2,096
Latest eight quarters	
2008	
January to March	2,144
April to June	2,168
July to September	2,129
October to December	2,103
2009	
January to March	2,082
April to June	2,144
July to September	2,251
October to December	2,326

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.

[2] Those who had not been looking for work in the four weeks prior to interview but who said they would like a regular paid job, plus those who had been looking for work but had been unable to start within two weeks.

Source:

ONS Labour Force Survey

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people in *(a)* Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency and *(b)* the UK were unemployed on the latest date for which figures are available. [319017]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated February 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in (a) Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency and (b) the UK were unemployed on the latest date for which figures are available. I am replying in his absence. (319017)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey, following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, due to small sample size, no reliable estimate is available for Na h-Eileanan an Iar.

As an alternative, the number of people aged 18 and over claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in January 2010 was (a) 605 people in Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency and (b) 1.65 million in the United Kingdom (source: Jobcentre Plus administrative system).

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment and unemployment, are available from the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much her Department plans to spend on the *(a)* V, *(b)* Generations Together, *(c)* Volunteer Management, *(d)* Access to Volunteering, *(e)* Youth Volunteering, *(f)* Volunteer Brokerage, *(g)* Capacitybuilders, *(h)* Futurebuilders and *(i)* other youth programmes in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [318129]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office has budgeted to spend the following amounts:

£ million

	2009-10	*2010-11*
(a) v	[1]38.1	[1]39
(b) Generations Together	1	1.5
(d) Access to Volunteering	0.65	1.25
(e) Youth Volunteering—Strategic Partners	1.06	1.06
(g) Capacitybuilders[2] and *(c)* Volunteer Management	[3]39.4	[4]32.2
(h) Futurebuilders[2]	53.8	48.4

[1] And up to £15 million through the v match fund, funded from a draw down on the HM Treasury Reserve.

[2] Including Modernisation Fund.

[3] Of which £0.9 million has been allocated to the Volunteer Management programme.

[4] Of which £2.2 million has been allocated to the Volunteer Management programme.

The current spending review period covers from 2008-09 to 2010-11. The Cabinet Office has therefore made no allocations to these programmes beyond March 2011.

There are no further funded youth programmes *(i)*, beyond the allocations to v and the youth volunteering strategic partners.

The Volunteer Brokerage scheme *(f)* is delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much her Department plans to spend on assistance for *(a)* youth and *(b)* other volunteering and community service in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [318130]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office has budgeted to spend the following amount on youth volunteering:

(i) 2009-10—£39.16 million (and up to £15 million through the v Match Fund).

(ii) 2010-11—£40.06 million (and up to £15 million through the v Match Fund).

The Cabinet Office has budgeted to spend the following amount on other volunteering and community service:

(i) 2009-10—£9 million.

(ii) 2010-11—£11.6 million.

The current spending review period covers from 2008-09 to 2010-11. The Cabinet Office has therefore made no allocations to these programmes beyond March 2011.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 2 March 2010

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many single payments were made in each of the last three years for which figures are available; how many such payments were monitored; and in how many cases reductions were made. [318843]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* The number of farmers who received payments under the single payment scheme (SPS) in England in respect of each scheme year is set out in the following table:

Farmers

SPS Scheme year	*Number*
2006	106,979
2007	104,589
2008	104,844

Latest figures show that, as at 23 February 2010 over 98,000 farmers have received payment for the 2009 scheme year, the payment window for which closes on the 30 June.

There are a number of farmers who have not received a payment because their claim is still undergoing the necessary validation checks. Some of these claims may result in no payment being due to the claimant once eligibility checks have been carried out.

All claims undergo validation as part of the Rural Payment Agency's regular processes and in addition a minimum of 5 per cent. are inspected, physically or remotely, as required by the EU. For cross compliance purposes, each of the four competent control authorities inspect at least 1 per cent. of farmers receiving payments that are conditional on meeting the cross compliance requirements for which they have responsibility. RPA uses existing cattle and sheep inspection regimes to partly satisfy this obligation.

The number of SPS claims which have been reduced is set out in the following table:

Reductions

SPS Scheme year	*Number*
2006	12,921
2007	13,719
2008	7,748

This includes a very substantial number of minor over-declarations of areas as well as more significant breaches of the scheme rules where we have to apply sanctions.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs at which locations the Single Payment Scheme is administered; how many people administer the scheme at each such location; and whether he has any proposals to reduce the number of *(a)* locations and *(b)* staff. [318845]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) currently operates from six main offices and there are no plans to reduce that number. RPA reviews, and will continue to review, its operations and resources regularly to ensure customer service is delivered effectively and efficiently. It is anticipated that RPA will reduce the number of staff employed at each office during the 2010-11 year.

Claims under the Single Payment Scheme are currently processed at RPA's offices in Exeter, Northallerton, Newcastle, Workington and Carlisle. Plans have recently been announced to transfer SPS processing from Newcastle to the Workington, Carlisle and Northallerton offices.

Staff at RPA's Reading office no longer process SPS claims but are involved in different aspects of administering the scheme.

At the end of January 2010 the number of full-time equivalent staff involved in administering the Single Payment Scheme is:

Staff

Location	*Number*
Reading	147.51
Exeter	201.85
Northallerton	385.67
Newcastle	232.89
Workington	244.03
Carlisle	259.53
Total	1,471.48

Note: These figures do not include Inspectorate or Finance staff.

RPA operates a flexible resourcing model and staff reductions are usually achieved through the reductions of temporary and fixed term appointments with regular consultation taking place with people and trade unions on any planned staff reductions.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many dogs have been seized under the provisions of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each of the last five years. [319984]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Figures for the number of dogs seized under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 are not collected centrally.

Departmental Paper

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* brands of (i) paper and (ii) paper products his Department uses; and what his Department's policy is on the procurement of those materials. [320039]

Dan Norris: From information held centrally the Department's contracted suppliers for (i) and (ii) are The Paper Company and Banner Business Supplies Ltd.

From information held centrally the only brands for (i) and (ii) that could be identified are 100 per cent. recycled (Post Consumer Waste) Evolve Office and Evolve Business A4 80gsm copier paper.

In the financial year 2008-9 Core DEFRA purchased a total of 45,124 reams of white A4 80gsm copier paper at an average purchase price of £2.09 excluding VAT.

DEFRA's procurement policy requires use of recycled paper and paper products that meet the Quick Wins targets set by the Government in October 2003. The only exceptions to these standards would be where recycled paper or recycled products are not available for a specific process e.g. security paper. DEFRA is giving active consideration to achieving the 100 per cent. target for all paper it buys except in cases of specific process need.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many households in England had *(a)* black sack and *(b)* wheeled containers for residual waste in each year since 2000. [319620]

Dan Norris: The following table shows the number of dwellings in England that received a black bag or wheeled bin collection for residual waste from 2005-06 to 2008-09.

	Number of dwellings	
	Black sacks ( )	*Wheeled bins*
2008-09	2,928,662	14,893,442
2007-08	3,235,010	14,322,766
2006-07	3,581,016	13,611,652
2005-06	3,548,163	12,702,631

Source:
WasteDataFlow

For the years 2000-01 to 2003-04 the only data available shows the percentage of dwellings in England that received black bag or wheeled bin collection. For each local authority, all of its households were classified using the method of containment that was provided to more than 50 per cent. of households in that authority, hence these figures are subject to some uncertainty. The dwelling stock data for England for those years is provided.

	Percentage of dwellings		
	Black sacks	*Wheeled bins*	*Dwelling stock (31 March of financial year)*
2003-04	23	58	21,636,000
2002-03	25	55	21,481,000
2001-02	21	52	21,337,000
2000-01	26	51	21,207,000

Sources:
Municipal Waste Management Survey, Department for Communities and Local Government website (Table 109)

Data for 2004-05 is not available due to the introduction that year of WasteDataFlow and there only being a 50 per cent. response rate from local authorities.

Local Government: Statistics

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what datasets not in the national indicator set *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Environment Agency regularly collects from local authorities. [319623]

Dan Norris: I refer the hon. Member for Peterborough to the answer given in response to the same question that he asked on 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 452W.

Members: Correspondence

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to reply to the letters of 20 November 2009 and 22 January 2010 from the right hon. Member for Maidstone and The Weald. [319542]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* Unfortunately we can find no record of having received the right hon. Member's letter of 20 November 2009.

A reply to her letter of 22 January 2010 is being prepared, and will be sent shortly. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Rural Payments Agency: Location

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs at which locations the Rural Payments Agency has had offices in each year since 2005; and how many staff the agency employed at each such office in each such year. [318846]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* The following table shows the number of full-time equivalent staff the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has directly employed in each of its locations since 2005. Numbers reported are as at 31 March in each financial year and are in line with the agency's 'Annual Civil Service Employment Survey' return to the Office for National Statistics which is published as part of the annual civil service statistics report.

Location	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
RPA main offices					
Carlisle	353.51	401.78	399.74	395.57	393.76
Exeter	429.78	311.25	415.41	440.68	383.38
Newcastle	476.32	459.49	517.44	405.80	451.03
Northallerton	432.89	360.59	484.09	477.80	506.63
Reading	721.81	639.90	637.34	578.74	566.04
Workington	447.31	526.15	765.14	691.52	631.52
RPA outstations	490.89	278.61	370.45	356.84	336.53
Total	3,352.51	2,977.77	3,589.61	3,346.95	3,268.89

These figures include part-time and full-time employees of the agency and do not include agency staff and contractors.

The outstations are generally shared premises with DEFRA and/or other Government Departments and are located across the United Kingdom. The number of outstations is currently 48 but has varied from 33 and 56 between 2005 and 2009 with the merger of the Horticultural Market Inspectorate into RPA in April 2006.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he has any proposals to reduce the number of *(a)* Rural Payments Agency offices and *(b)* staff employed at each such office. [318847]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 1 March 2010]*: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) currently operates from six main offices and there are no plans to reduce that number.

RPA reviews, and will continue to review, its operations and resources regularly to ensure customer service is delivered effectively and efficiently. It is anticipated that RPA will reduce the number of staff employed at each office during the 2010-11 year.

Plans have recently been announced to transfer SPS processing from Newcastle to the offices at Northallerton, Carlisle and Workington.

RPA operates a flexible resourcing model and staff reductions are usually achieved through the reductions of temporary and fixed term appointments with regular consultation taking place with people and trade unions on any planned staff reductions.

Waste Disposal: EU Action

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department had with the European Commission on proposals to establish an EU waste implementation agency. [319624]

Dan Norris: The European Commission invited member states, industry stakeholders and non-governmental organisations to attend informal workshops on the possibility of establishing a waste implementation agency on 2 April and 14 September 2009.

DEFRA officials attended both workshops. The Commission, via consultants, also invited member states to respond to an informal questionnaire on the feasibility of establishing such an agency. The UK responded to that questionnaire in April 2009.

Waste Improvement Network: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has given to the Waste Improvement Network in each year since the network's inception; and how much it plans to contribute in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [319666]

Dan Norris: Communities and Local Government (CLG) and DEFRA have funded the Waste Improvement Network (WIN) as detailed in the table over a five-year period:

	Funding Source	*£*
2006-07	CLG (through Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships funding - RIEP)	89,700
2007-08	DEFRA (direct grant)	100,000
2008-09	DEFRA (direct grant)	85,000
2009-10	85% DEFRA (direct grant), 15% CLG (through RIEP funding)	100,000
2010-11	85% DEFRA (direct grant), 15% CLG (through RIEP funding)	100,000

No budget has been set for 2011-12.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Energy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps his Department plans to take to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. [319098]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) participated in Earth Hour 2009 by asking the management in each of its buildings to take every possible step to ensure that no unnecessary lighting was left on. This is our aim at all times.

The NIO have appointed a Green Champion who intends to issue a similar message for this year's Earth Hour event which takes place on 27 March 2010 at 8.30 pm.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Digital Broadcasting: Northern Ireland

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of improving digital coverage in Northern Ireland before the digital switchover; and from what budget that cost will be met. [319473]

Mr. Bradshaw: As set out in the recently published Digital Britain White Paper, the Government recognise that building out a digital audio broadcasting (DAB) infrastructure which meets the needs of broadcasters, multiplex operators and listeners, including improving the quality of the signal, will require additional investment. However, the digital radio upgrade programme, alongside the proposals on co-location and licence-renewals, will offer significant cost-savings for commercial broadcasters, some of which must support investment in improving coverage.

In areas where the BBC's need to deliver universal access is not matched by the economic realities of the local commercial market, the BBC will need to bear a significant portion of the costs. The full cost cannot be left to the BBC alone. Where possible, the BBC and national commercial multiplex operators should work together to ensure that any new transmitters benefit both BBC and commercial multiplexes. Partnerships between the BBC and commercial local multiplex operators will be even more important at a local DAB level.

We will work with the BBC, transmission providers and Ofcom to agree a plan for the extension and improvement of local DAB coverage, and where the cost would most appropriately fall.

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the proportion of households in Northern Ireland with access to *(a)* national DAB services from the BBC and *(b)* commercial DAB services provided at (i) national and (ii) local level; [319474]

Mr. Bradshaw: DAB coverage is principally measured by population rather than geographic area. Approximately 90 per cent. of the UK population currently have some access to DAB services on at least one multiplex.

DAB coverage in Northern Ireland is estimated at around 87 per cent. of the population. Listeners in Northern Ireland can access up to 23 DAB stations, including the 11 national BBC stations plus BBC Radio Ulster/Foyle, four national commercial stations (Classic FM, talkSPORT, BFBS and Amazing Radio), and six local commercial stations.

In Northern Ireland, the BBC national multiplex was extended in April 2009, with a new transmitter installed at Armagh, adding coverage for an estimated 80,000 people, improving reception for around 200,000 more in the area. The other four transmitter sites in Northern Ireland are at Divis, Brougher Mountain, Limavady and Sheriff's Mountain in Derry/Londonderry.

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to expand digital capacity in Northern Ireland to allow stations currently available on analogue to provide digital services before the digital switchover. [319476]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government have tabled an amendment to the draft Digital Economy Bill which would allow the existing national commercial multiplex to extend its coverage into Northern Ireland. This would double the capacity available for digital commercial services in Northern Ireland.

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has made an estimate of the number of local commercial radio stations in Northern Ireland without a digital migration pathway. [319477]

Mr. Bradshaw: No specific assessment has been made of the impact of the radio provisions set out in the draft Digital Economy Bill on local commercial stations remaining on FM after the digital radio switchover. However, my Department is in regular dialogue with the industry with the specific purpose of ensuring that local radio can continue to thrive on FM after the digital radio switchover.

Listed Events Review

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received from Ofcom in respect of the David Davies review of listed events. [319786]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* The Government's statutory consultation on free-to-air listed events has been extended until 19 March. A response from Ofcom has not as yet been received. Subject to any issues relating to confidentiality, responses to the consultation will be published on the Department's website in due course.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 664W, on sports: television, what mechanisms will be used to resolve differences of opinion over the market value of listed events. [319838]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* The David Davies review of listed events acknowledged the potential impact of listing on the market value of the broadcasting rights to an event. The Government's statutory consultation invites sporting bodies to submit evidence of such impact. Where credible evidence is provided, I will take it into account in assessing the overall economic impact on the sport in the event of a particular event being listed.

Olympic Games 2012: Culture

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the budget is for the Cultural Olympiad. [318853]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* The major projects and the UK-wide cultural festival of the Cultural Olympiad provide opportunities across the UK to celebrate the best of British culture. Facilitated by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, projects are delivered and funded in partnership with a range of public and private partners for example the Olympic Lottery Distributor, national Arts Councils and the Legacy Trust UK.

Approximately £72 million has been invested in funding and facilitating the Cultural Olympiad's major projects (three of which have been launched already) and the UK wide cultural festival. In addition to this funding, nearly 150 self-funded cultural projects have already been awarded the London 2012 Inspire Mark.

Public Libraries

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what timetable he has set for the proposed ending of the statutory requirement on local authorities to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service. [319730]

Margaret Hodge: There are no plans to end the statutory requirement on local authorities to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service. It is this statutory basis which has protected and sustained the vital role of libraries in our communities.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Expenses

Mr. Hands: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much was paid to Detica as part of the investigation into the leaking of hon. Members' expenses files in 2009. [318945]

Nick Harvey: No payment has been made to date for a specific piece of work in connection with the internal inquiry into the unauthorised disclosure of information on Members' allowances.

Parliament: Energy

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many annunciator screens have been replaced for each reason in the last 12 months; and at what cost those screens were replaced. [319052]

Nick Harvey: It is not possible to identify the number in House of Commons areas but 32 faulty television sets carrying the annunciator have been replaced across the estate, including House of Lords areas, in the last 12 months, the House of Commons share of the cost being some £5,250.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games: Canada

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much the Government Olympic Executive spent on travel for *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers to the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics. [318969]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* GOE has not yet received all the invoices for officials' costs.

Details of ministerial travel costing over £500 are published annually and include the cost, destination and purpose of the trip. It also provides information on the number of officials who accompany Ministers, and their costs are included in this return. The most recent list was published in July 2009 and the details of attendance at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic games will be included in the 2010 return.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many of his Department's officials were classified as working in *(a)* England and *(b)* Scotland in each of the last three years; how many are so classified in 2010 to date; and how much his Department spent on staff salaries in each quarter of 2009. [319586]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not classify staff as working in England or Scotland. The Office has staff in London and Edinburgh, some of whom travel regularly between London and Scotland as business needs demand. Scotland Office annual reports, which are available on our website, provide staffing information. Expenditure on staff salaries is not available in the form requested.

TRANSPORT

A12: Safety

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans he has to *(a)* upgrade, *(b)* improve safety and *(c)* relieve congestion on the A12 between its junction with the M25 and Witham; and if he will make a statement. [319082]

Chris Mole: Following the then Secretary of State for Transport's announcement in November 2008 that the Department for Transport would invest up to £60 million in introducing new traffic management measures to improve safety, reduce delays and tackle congestion along 54 miles of the A12, the Highways Agency has begun to implement a programme of schemes to do this.

The Department for Transport has recently commissioned consultants to undertake the London to Haven ports national networks study. This is to understand and identify measures to address the issues on the strategic routes between London and the Haven ports, including the A12.

Aviation: Public Lavatories

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will make it a legal requirement for commercial passenger airlines to provide free lavatory facilities for passengers on all international flights using UK airports. [319702]

Paul Clark: There is no international requirement for airlines to provide lavatory facilities for passengers. Airlines do however provide these facilities for free. We are not aware of any airlines who are not currently doing this.

Therefore we see no reason for regulatory intervention at present.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department has spent on national concessionary bus travel for pensioners since the scheme's introduction in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England. [319338]

Mr. Khan: From April 2008, the Department for Transport has provided additional special grant funding to local authorities to cover the extra cost of providing the extension to the concession; which now guarantees free off-peak local bus travel across England to all eligible older and disabled residents:

(a) £275,041 in 2008-09 and £281,528 in 2009-10 to Chorley borough council;

(b) A total of £5,608,371 in 2008-09 and £5,740,644 in 2009-10 to all of the travel concession authorities (TCAs) in the county of Lancashire (which includes Blackburn with Darwen council borough council and Blackpool council);

(c) A total of £212 million in 2008-09 and £217 million in 2009-10 to the whole of England.

The Department for Communities and Local Government continues to provide the bulk of concessionary travel funding to local authorities through formula grant. Before 1 April 2008, funding for the statutory minimum bus concession was provided exclusively through the formula grant system.

The Department for Transport did however provide £31 million of grant to England in 2007-08 for the cost of producing and issuing the new England-wide bus passes to all those eligible, of which a total of £1,121,352 went to the TCAs of Lancashire; this includes Chorley's allocation of £69,004.

Bus Services: Greater Manchester

Graham Stringer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the contribution which will be made from the public purse to the Greater Manchester cross-city bus travel scheme in the next 12 months. [319434]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 1 March 2010]*: Officials are currently assessing the business case and a decision on whether to grant initial funding approval will be made in due course.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans he has to introduce a facility for payment of tolls by credit or debit card at the Dartford-Thurrock river crossing. [319789]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is committed to improving the levels of service experienced by users of the Dartford crossing.

In April 2009, the Department published its initial analysis of the current and possible future capacity constraints at the Dartford-Thurrock river crossing. On the basis of the findings and conclusions of the analysis, we announced further work to investigate what can be done in the short to medium term to improve the level of service provided by the existing crossing. This includes looking into ways to increase efficiency through the use of new technology.

The introduction of payment by credit or debit cards could be considered if it were demonstrated that this would be both cost effective and would not adversely impact on transaction times.

Driving Under Influence: Accidents

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many and what proportion of road deaths in each local authority area involved at least one driver with a blood alcohol level in excess of the legal limit in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [320048]

Paul Clark: The information requested is not available by local authority area.

However, further information about alcohol-related accidents can be found in the Drink drive articles, in 'Reported Road Casualties Great Britain', at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/casualtiesgbar/

East Coast Railway Line

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many fewer train services will run on the east coast main line to and from *(a)* Retford and London and *(b)* Retford and Leeds in the next timetable period compared to current service levels; and how many more train services will run to and from London and Leeds over the same periods. [318897]

Chris Mole: The Government have not specified, and does not expect, any changes to the current east coast main line train services at Retford to take place for the next timetable period, commencing in May 2010. The rail industry is developing a new east coast main line timetable for introduction in May 2011.

EC Transport Policy

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many other nations shared the UK position at the meeting of EU Transport Ministers on 12 February 2010 in La Coruña, Spain that the European Commission action plan on urban mobility should not lead to further legislation; and if he will make it his policy that UK cities and regions will retain the freedom to implement locally relevant solutions. [319705]

Mr. Khan: A significant number of member states shared the UK position by supporting the action plan, but making clear that it should not lead to any new legislation and that the principle of subsidiarity should be respected. Twelve other Ministers explicitly made this point during their interventions.

It is Government policy that cities and regions should have the freedom to implement locally relevant solutions.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many vehicles were impounded for unpaid vehicle excise duty in each of the last three years. [319703]

Paul Clark: The following table shows the number of vehicles impounded for unpaid vehicle excise duty in the United Kingdom for each of the last three years.

	Number of vehicles impounded
2007	73,798
2008	63,059
2009	56,604
Total	193,461

Metronet

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what assessment his Department has made of the performance of Metronet against its objectives since its transfer to Transport for London; and what recent discussions his Department has had over its long-term future; [318148]

(2) what recent assessment his Department has made of the performance of Tube Lines against its objectives. [318150]

Mr. Khan: When the London Underground public private partnership (PPP) was established in 2003, performance measurements were put in place to enable London Underground to assess the performance of Metronet and Tube Lines. The performance reports are available on Transport for London's (TfL) website. My officials meet regularly with TfL, London Underground and Tube Lines to discuss a range of issues, including performance.

My written ministerial statement of 29 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 28W, set out new contracting and scrutiny arrangements for the ex-Metronet investment programme. I expect members of the new TfL independent advisory panel to be appointed shortly from a shortlist agreed with the Secretary of State.

Parking: Disabled

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what mechanism is available to enable disabled people to challenge service providers who do not meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 in respect of the adequacy of the provision of parking spaces reserved for use by people with disabilities. [318928]

Mr. Khan: Part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 enables disabled people to challenge service providers to improve the services they offer to disabled people. Disabled people who think they may have been discriminated against can contact the Equality and Human Rights Commission for information on what they need to do.

Railways: Overcrowding

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what progress has been made on reducing levels of overcrowding on the passenger rail service between Chelmsford and London Liverpool Street; and if he will make a statement. [319083]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport and National Express East Anglia entered into a deed of amendment to the National Express East Anglia franchise agreement on 1 April 2009. As part of this agreement, from 14 December 2009, nine services a day between Chelmsford and London Liverpool Street have been extended by four carriages, providing essential new capacity during the morning and evening peaks on the Great Eastern main line.

In addition to this, additional and lengthened Great Eastern Mainline services are due to be introduced in December 2010 and May 2011. The precise calling pattern for these services is due to be finalised between National Express East Anglia and Network Rail in mid-March 2010.

Railways: Rugby

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will encourage train operating companies to increase the provision of rail services between Rugby and Scotland and the north-west of England; and if he will make a statement. [319381]

Chris Mole: The existing west coast franchise is due to end in March 2012. Consultation on the detail of the next west coast franchise will commence 15 to 18 months beforehand. Train operating companies and stakeholders are free to come forward with proposals.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assistance the Government are giving to *(a)* Essex county council and *(b)* other local authorities to repair potholes and damage to road surfaces following the severe weather in the last two winters; and if he will make a statement. [319364]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport has published guidance on its emergency capital highway maintenance funding scheme. Authorities, including Essex county council, may submit a claim for emergency funding to repair damage to their roads which they consider was caused by the recent severe weather. The Department will carefully consider claims that are received.

Stagecoach Group: Judicial Review

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the status is of the judicial review in relation to Stagecoach and concessionary bus fares. [318577]

Mr. Khan: The major issues relating to the judicial reviews by bus operators in the Stagecoach and Go-Ahead groups, concerning the concessionary bus travel scheme, were heard at a preliminary hearing in the High Court from 17-20 November 2009. The court's judgment was handed down on 16 February 2010. The judge declined the operators' request for various declarations that would have fundamentally changed the reimbursement arrangements for concessionary travel.

There were also a number of more technical issues that were included in the original applications for judicial review by Stagecoach and Go-Ahead that were not considered at the November hearing. We are waiting to hear whether the operators decide to pursue these issues in the light of the judgment.

The High Court declined permission for the operators to appeal to the Court of Appeal.

The Secretary of State conceded prior to the hearing that the appeal determinations in 2007-08 should not have specified payment of a fixed amount to the operator in advance of the financial year end. These appeals will be re-determined in due course.

Tube Lines

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions his Department has had with the Mayor of London on the future role of Tube Lines in the maintenance, renewal and upgrading of the London Underground network. [318149]

Mr. Khan: Departmental officials have had no discussions with the Mayor of London on the future role of Tube Lines. Ministers have regular meetings with the Mayor at which a wide range of transport matters are discussed.

Vehicles: Registration

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many drivers disputed a claim by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency that they had not submitted a statutory off-road notification certificate in the latest period for which figures are available. [319565]

Paul Clark: Information relating to how many drivers disputed a claim by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency that they had not submitted a statutory off-road notification is not held.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many vehicles built before 1 January 1973 there were registered in the UK in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2009. [319704]

Paul Clark: The following table gives the number of vehicles (rounded to the nearest hundred vehicles) licensed in Great Britain on 31 December 1997, 2003 and 2008 which were manufactured before 1 January 1973.

As at 31 December each year	*Known to be manufactured before 1 January 1973*
1997	523,500
2003	493,800
2008	473,100

There are a number of vehicles known to be used before their date of first registration in Great Britain whose date of manufacture is unknown. At 31 December 2008 there were 51,000 such vehicles. It is likely that the large majority of these are modern imported vehicles, but a small proportion may have been manufactured before 1973.

Data are not yet available for vehicles licensed on 31 December 2009.

The Department does not hold data on vehicles licensed in Northern Ireland.

TREASURY

Child Benefit: Glasgow

Mr. Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many parents and guardians in Glasgow North-East constituency have received child benefit since 2004. [319972]

Mr. Timms: Information on the number of households benefiting from child benefit, by each parliamentary constituency, from 2004 to 2007 is published in the HMRC publication "Child Benefit Statistics. Geographical Analyses,August 2007", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/chb-geog-aug07.pdf

A breakdown of this information by parents and guardians is not available, as HMRC does not hold this information.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has classified community infrastructure levy as a form of taxation. [319631]

Mr. Timms: The independent Office for National Statistics (ONS) will decide on the classification of the community infrastructure levy (CIL) in line with European statistical guidance. The ONS will consider the classification of the CIL once regulations to implement CIL are approved by Parliament.

Departmental Energy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department plans to take to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. [319102]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury supported the World Wide Fund for Nature's 'Earth Hour' initiative in 2009, and this year will also be encouraging staff to switch off non-essential electrical equipment and lights on 27 March.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 563W, on departmental pay, how many and what proportion of staff of his Department received both an annual performance bonus and an in-year bonus in 2008-09; what the largest combined bonus payment to an individual was; what proportion of staff received no bonus; and who was responsible for awarding such bonuses. [313131]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Non-consolidated awards are paid in two circumstances. First, performance awards are those linked to the annual staff appraisal system. Directorates are responsible for setting up performance review teams to award non-consolidated awards as part of the appraisal process.

Secondly, special bonuses are those paid to recognise exceptional performance for specific contributions or pieces of work during the year or situations outside the normal expectations of the post. Directorates are also responsible for the award of special bonus awards.

In 2008-09, 15 per cent. of full-time equivalent staff in post (191 individuals) were paid both a performance award and a special bonus, with the largest combined bonus payment to an individual being £14,000, with 39 per cent. of staff in post receiving neither a performance award nor a special bonus.

The permanent secretary is responsible for awarding bonuses, with the exception of his own, which is the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many thefts from his Department have been recorded in the last two years. [318991]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The numbers of thefts from the Department recorded in the last two calendar years are four in 2008 and six in 2009.

Empty Property

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what definition of the term *(a)* actual and *(b)* vacant is used for the purposes of property returns for the e-PIMS database; and what proportion of central Government property is recorded on that database. [319805]

Ian Pearson: The definitions of the terms vacant and actual are only used in the context of vacant space recorded on e-PIMS. Space that is vacant remains the responsibility of the owning department. Actual vacant space refers to space that is currently available, as opposed to potential vacant space (that might become available in the future but no specific date has been identified) or future vacant space (that is planned to be available at a specific date).

100 per cent. of property records within the mandated estate are entered on e-PIMS.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Dr. Fox: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue has accrued to the Exchequer from duty on sales of cider in each year since 2005. [319517]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Historical receipts of duty collected from cider can be found in table 2 of the HM Revenue and Customs Beer and Cider Duties Bulletin, available at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullbeer

Government Departments: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made against the 2006 target to reduce carbon emissions from road vehicles used for Government administrative operations by 15 per cent. by 2010-11 relative to 2005-06 levels. [319344]

Ian Pearson: Government have a target to reduce carbon emissions from road vehicles used for administrative purposes by 15 per cent. by 2010 relative to a 2005-06 baseline. Overall the Government are on track to achieve this target, the current overall reduction against the baseline year is 17 per cent. Data supporting this delivery figure have been supplied by Departments and published. The latest assessment of Government's performance against this target was published by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) on 18 December 2009, and is available on the OGC website:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/sustainability_programme_progress.asp

Inheritance Tax: Dundee

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Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what revenue accrued to the Exchequer from inheritance tax levied on estates in Dundee, East constituency in the last five years. [319568]

Mr. Timms: The information is not currently available at a constituency level. Inheritance tax data are based on a UK-wide sample of cases which is designed to produce national level figures and the size of the sample means that HMRC cannot reliably estimate tax receipts below a regional level.

Inheritance Tax: Housing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many estates in the UK inheritance tax was paid in each year since 1996. [319664]

Mr. Timms: The number of estates on which UK inheritance tax was paid is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/table1-4.xls

Inheritance Tax: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue accrued to the Exchequer from inheritance tax on estates in Leeds, North-West constituency in the last five years. [319490]

Mr. Timms: The information is not currently available at constituency level. Inheritance tax data is based on a UK wide sample of cases which is designed to produce national level figures and the size of the sample means that HMRC cannot reliably estimate the number of taxpayers below a regional level.

Insurance: Buildings

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to give the Financial Services Authority the power to consider cases of unreasonable buildings insurance premiums charged by freeholders of rented or leasehold property. [319671]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Remedies already exist for leaseholders to establish whether or not the insurance premium they are asked to pay or contribute towards by way of service charges is reasonable.

Where a leaseholder considers that a freeholder has overcharged in respect of the building insurance premium (or their contribution towards it), they have a right to take the case to a leasehold valuation tribunal for a determination of the reasonableness of the insurance.

Leave

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average number of contracted days' paid holiday was in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector on each industrial category in the most recent year for which information is available. [318634]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average number of contracted days' paid holiday was in the (a) public and (b) private sector by industrial category in the most recent year for which information is available. (318634)

The latest available estimates of average paid holiday entitlement per year are provided in the attached table. The estimates are derived from data collected in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) in Q4 2009. The distinction between public and private sector is based on the respondent's understanding of the organisation for which they work.

As with any sample survey, the estimates provided are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Paid holiday entitlement for employees by sector. Three months ending December 2009. United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	Average paid holiday entitlement (days per year)[1]
Public sector[2] Total	29
Private Sector Total	21
Private Sector by main industry[3] sector	
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	19
Energy and water	25
Manufacturing	22
Construction	21
Distribution, hotels and restaurants	18

Paid holiday entitlement for employees by sector. Three months ending December 2009. United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	Average paid holiday entitlement (days per year)[1]
Transport and communication	23
Banking, finance and other business services	22
Public administration, education and health	22
Other services	18
Total[4]	23

[1] Excludes public holidays

[2] Includes nationalised industry or state corporation, central Government, civil service, local government or council (incl. police, fire services and local authority controlled schools or colleges), university or other grant funded educational establishment, health authority or NHS trust and armed forces.

[3] According to the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 1992

[4] Includes those whose type of employer was not known.

Source:

ONS Labour Force Survey

Non-Domestic Rates: Garages and Petrol Stations:

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many petrol retail stations were on the Valuation Office Agency's rating list in 1997; and how many there are on the 2010 rating list. [317803]

Ian Pearson: As the hon. Member will be aware, there have been some significant changes in the structure of petrol retailing over the past 15 years. Petrol filling stations in the 1995 rating lists were identified using Valuation Office Agency (VOA) Special Category (SCAT) code 222.

As at 1 April 1997 there were 11,870 in England and 1,050 in Wales.

In the draft 2010 rating lists petrol filling stations are under SCAT 209.

As at 2 November there were 5,650 in England and 440 in Wales.

Non-Domestic Rates: Retail Trade

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total rateable value is of hereditaments classified as retail properties; and for how many such properties the rateable value is *(a)* under £5,000, *(b)* between £5,000 and £14,999, *(c)* between £15,000 and £24,999, *(d)* between £25,000 and £49,999, *(e)* between £50,000 and £99,999, *(f)* between £100,000 and £499,999 and *(g)* at least £500,000. [316909]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* The Valuation Office Agency identifies the various types of property contained in the rating lists by the use of a Specialist (SCAT) code.

These data are consistent with the statistical release titled: "Non-domestic Rateable Values: 2010 Local Ratings Lists—England and Wales", published on 18 December 2009. A copy of the statistical release is available at the following link:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/VOA_Statistics_Release_Final.pdf

Properties with a 'Retail' SCAT code of 021, 024, 086, 097, 098, 106, 139, 152, 154, 155, 210, 235, 243, 249, 251, 417, 425, 429, 442, 504, 507, 508

	England		Wales		Total	
Rateable value	Number hereditaments (Thousand)	Total rateable value (£ million)	Number hereditaments (Thousand)	Total rateable value (£ million)	Number hereditaments (Thousand)	Total rateable value (£ million)
Below 5,000	142	447	12	35	154	482
Between 5,000 and 14,999	195	1,696	10	82	205	1,779
Between 15,000 and 24,999	52	988	2	45	54	1,033
Between 25,000 and 49,999	40	1,400	2	63	42	1,463
Between 50,000 and 99,999	22	1,543	1	69	23	1,613
Between 100,000 and 499,999	21	4,223	1	208	22	4,431
500,000 or over	4	4,458	0	204	4	4,662
Total	476	14,755	29	707	505	15,462

Pension Credit: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many pensioners resident in Leeds, North-West constituency have been contacted as part of his Department's pension credit tax back campaign. [319497]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: As part of the Taxback campaign announced at Budget 2009, HM Revenue and Customs have contacted all 3.4 million beneficiaries of pension credit to encourage those who are overpaying tax on their bank and building society interest to claim it back and, where eligible, to register to receive future interest payments without tax deducted. The latest information on the number of pension credit beneficiaries (August 2009), shows that there were 3,680 beneficiaries in the Leeds, North-West parliamentary constituency.

Revenue and Customs: Surveillance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* requests and *(b)* approvals for authorisation for HM Revenue and Customs to carry out *(a)* property interference, *(b)* intrusive surveillance and *(c)* covert human intelligence sources there have been in each of the last five years. [319632]

Mr. Timms: The Chief Surveillance Commissioner, Sir Christopher Rose, publishes a yearly figure for property interference, intrusive surveillance and covert human intelligence sources for all police forces and other agencies, including HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), in his annual report to Parliament. Sir Christopher does not break the figure into individual forces or agencies as the sensitivity of the information could lead to criminals assessing the covert capability of each force and agency. This applies equally to HMRC and it is therefore not considered to be in the public interest to make this information available.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to the merits of restricting firms from using offshore ompanies to avoid stamp duty land tax. [319628]

Mr. Timms: Tax avoidance has the potential to damage he public finances and the provision of public services. HM Revenue and Customs monitors all aspects of tax voidance closely on a continuous basis, advising Ministers ccordingly.

Tax Allowances

Angela Browning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer in each financial year from 2010-11 to 2013-14 of introducing a transferable personal llowance, limited to the basic rate of income tax, for ll married couples and couples in civil partnerships with children under the age of six; [312934]

(2) if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer in each financial year from 2010-11 to 2013-14 of ntroducing a transferable personal allowance, limited o the basic rate of income tax, for all married couples and couples in civil partnerships with children under he age of three; [312935]

(3) if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer in each financial year from 2010-11 to 2013-14 of ntroducing a transferable personal allowance, limited o the basic rate of income tax, for all couples with children under the age of six; [312936]

(4) if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer in each financial year from 2010-11 to 2013-14 of introducing a transferable personal allowance, limited to the basic rate of income tax, for all couples with children under the age of three. [312937]

(5) if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer in each financial year from 2010-11 to 2013-14 of introducing a transferable personal allowance, limited to the basic rate of income tax, for all married couples and couples in civil partnerships. [312943]

Mr. Timms *[holding answers 25 and 28 February 2010]:* Due to the complex nature of these questions the following estimates should be treated with caution. These estimates exclude any behavioural response to the change, which could be significant given the magnitude of the change. This has the additional implication of limiting reliable modelling of costs to 2010-11.

The estimated cost in 2010-11 of allowing personal tax allowances to be transferable, limited to the basic rate of income tax, for the specified groups would be:

£0.6 billion for all couples with children under the age of three;

£1.0 billion for all couples with children under the age of six;

£0.5 billion for all married couples and couples in civil partnerships with children under the age of three;

£0.8 billion for all married couples and couples in civil partnerships with children under the age of six;

£4.2 billion for all married couples and couples in civil partnerships.

These estimates have been calculated using HM Treasury's tax and benefit micro-simulation model using Family Resources survey 2007-08 data.

Taxation

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many self-assessment forms required clerical action in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009; and for what reasons a self-assessment case may require clerical action. [316950]

Mr. Timms: Information on the circumstances in which clerical action may be required on a self-assessment (SA) return is contained in Her Majesty Revenue and Customs' SA instruction manual, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/SA/index.htm

The information requested on how many self-assessment returns required clerical action is available only at disproportionate cost as HMRC's systems do not capture this.

Taxation: Business

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number of companies which have taken up the three-year carry-back of losses option since its implementation and *(b)* monetary value of trading losses carried forward under section 393 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [319335]

Mr. Timms: In addition to the unincorporated businesses it has supported, HM Revenue and Customs estimated that approximately 11,000 companies have so far used the temporary extension of loss carry-back for trading losses from one year to three years for losses up to £50,000.

The information requested on the pools of trading losses carried forward are available only at disproportionate cost, as they are not directly available from the 'C7 600 Company Self Assessment Return'.

Valuation Office Agency: Internet

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions the Valuation Office Agency's public website has been offline in the last 12 months. [319634]

Ian Pearson: The Valuation Office Agency's public website has had no unscheduled downtime in the last 12 months. It was offline for scheduled maintenance between 08:00 on 30 May 2009 to 18:00 on 31 May 2009 and 08:00 on 21 November 2009 to 18:00 on 22nd November 2009.

Valuation Office Agency: Manpower

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of the Valuation Office Agency's *(a)* staff and *(b)* council tax inspectors are (i) male and (ii) female. [319629]

Ian Pearson: The proportion of the Valuation Office Agency's staff who are male is 55 and 45 are female. Within the generic rating and council tax inspector role, 49 are male and 51 female. These figures are based on data as at 2 February 2010

Valuation Office Agency: North East

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Valuation Office Agency staff in offices in *(a)* the north-east and *(b)* north Lincolnshire worked on the separate rating of port businesses in each year since 1997. [319448]

Ian Pearson: The VOA does not keep records of the number of staff involved in the assessment of separate hereditaments within statutory ports going back to 1997. Staff involved in work on the ports undertake general rating work in other locations and work in other business streams.

VAT: Local Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 783W, on VAT: local government, how much was paid in value added tax refunds to local authorities consequent on judicial rulings in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [319643]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) currently estimates that around £2 million was repaid in 2007-08 to local authorities and around £40 million in 2008-09 in respect of the judgment in Fleming/Conde Nast. HMRC does not routinely collect information on the overall level of refunds to local authorities as a result of litigation rulings.

Welfare Tax Credits: Aberdeenshire

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individuals in Banff and Buchan constituency receive tax credits; and what the average weekly level of such credits was in the latest period for which figures are available. [319345]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The latest information on the number of households benefiting from tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency, is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. December 2009", available:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-dec09.pdf

As incomes and entitlements for 2009-10 have yet to be finalised, equivalent information on the average weekly payment is not yet available. The latest information on the average annual payment of tax credits to households, by each parliamentary constituency, is available in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised annual awards. Geographical analyses 2007-08", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-payments-0708.pdf

Welfare Tax Credits: Glasgow

Mr. Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Glasgow North East constituency have received *(a)* child tax credit and *(b)* working tax credit since 2004. [319971]

Mr. Timms: The latest information on the number of households benefiting from tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency from 2003 to 2009, is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

The same information for 2008-09 is not yet available as awards have not yet been finalised. However, estimates of the number of recipient families with tax credits, based on provisional awards, as at 1 December 2009, are available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical analyses. December 2009", at the same internet address.

HMRC do not produce these statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

Welfare Tax Credits: Na h-Eileanan an Iar

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were in receipt of tax credits in Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average weekly payment in such credits was in that constituency in that period. [319018]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The latest information on the number of households benefiting from tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency, is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. December 2009", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-dec09.pdf

As incomes and entitlements for 2009-10 have yet to be finalised, equivalent information on the average weekly payment is not yet available. The latest available information on the average annual payment of tax credits to households, by each parliamentary constituency, is available in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised annual awards. Geographical analyses 2007-08", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-payments-0708.pdf

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers' Benefits

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what circumstances an asset owned by a carer in receipt of the carer's allowance may be disregarded for the purposes of an application for income support. [318143]

Jonathan Shaw: Carers are treated in the same way as other income support customers when considering the effect an asset has on income support.

Income support has a lower capital limit of £6,000 (or £10,000 for people permanently living in a care home) above which benefit is reduced and an upper limit of £16,000 above which benefit cannot be paid.

The value of most forms of capital, which includes avings and assets, is counted when calculating entitlement o income support; however, some forms of capital sset are disregarded. Income support rules on treatment f capital are extensive but the most common scenarios re covered as follows.

All personal possessions belonging to an income upport customer are disregarded with the exception of hose acquired by the customer with the intention of educing savings in order to secure entitlement to, or ncrease the amount of, income support.

Certain forms of cash asset are disregarded when alculating entitlement to income support, for example, noney derived from a personal injury compensation ayment that is held in a trust fund. In addition certain other compensation payments are ignored such as payments o the customer made as a result of a person's imprisonment oy the Japanese during the second world war and payments nade to compensate for slave or forced labour during he second world war. Other types of cash asset can also oe ignored; for example, certain lump sum payments for arrears of benefit and payments made by specific trusts and funds that have been set up in order to help people vho have been infected by blood products.

No account is taken of the value of a property that a person occupies as their home, while the value of any second property is normally treated as capital. However, the Government do recognise that there are certain circumstances where it would be impractical and unfair to take the value of a second property into account. An example of this is that, once a property is put up for sale, the value can be ignored for up to 26 weeks, or longer where reasonable steps are being taken to sell it.

Departmental ICT

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department has allocated for the *(a)* procurement, *(b)* maintenance, *(c)* compliance testing and *(d)* security of information technology systems in 2010-11. [313375]

Jim Knight: The information is not held centrally in the format requested and therefore cannot be provided.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many designs for its website her Department has commissioned since 2005. [318638]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has commissioned one redesign for the DWP Corporate website since 2005. This redesign was launched in June 2009.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the proportion of staff of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies managed out in the last five years who remain working in the public sector. [313845]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department and its agencies do not hold information on the employment of former staff after they leave the Department and no estimate has been made of how many remain working in the public sector.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much of the additional £5 billion announced in *(a)* pre-Budget report 2008 and *(b)* the Budget 2009 has been allocated to (i) Jobcentre Plus, (ii) Flexible New Deal, (iii) the Future Jobs Fund, (iv) the Young Persons Guarantee, (v) the six month offer and (vi) other employment-related programmes; [309330]

(2) what estimate she has made of the underspend from planned budgets for the additional £5 billion announced in the *(a)* pre-Budget report 2008 and *(b)* Budget 2009 in respect of expenditure on (i) Jobcentre Plus, (ii) Flexible New Deal, (iii) the Future Jobs Fund, (iv) the Young Persons Guarantee, (v) the six month offer and (vi) other employment-related programmes; [309331]

(3) how much her Department has reallocated consequent on the rate of claimant unemployment at the time of Budget 2009; from what budgets that money has been reallocated; and to which budgets it has been transferred; [309332]

(4) how much of the additional £5 billion announced in the *(a)* pre-Budget report 2008 and *(b)* Budget 2009 has been spent. [309350]

Jim Knight: In the pre-Budget report 2008, and Budget 2009, the Chancellor announced that additional investment of up to £5 billion discretionary spending would be made available as a response to the recession. The following table shows how this £5 billion was allocated:

		£ million
	pre-Budget report 2008	*Budget 2009*
Jobcentre Plus and other corporate expenditure	871	1,005
Employment Providers and Local Authorities (for the administration of Housing Benefit)	461	709
Six month offer	n/a	511
Future Jobs Fund and Young Person's Guarantee	n/a	1,208
Support for Mortgage Interest	135	135

Of the £5 billion additional investment, £2.1 billion is allocated to 2009-10 and £2.9 billion to 2010-11. The precise allocation of this resource within the Department is set out in our three-year business plan, a copy of which is in the House of Commons Library.

The number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance at the end of 2009 was over 450,000 lower than the NAO audited assumption at the time of Budget 2009. If unemployment follows the revised NAO audited assumption set out in the pre-Budget report 2009, benefit expenditure would be around £10 billion lower over the next five years than forecast at Budget 2009. This has also led to savings from the Department's budget and allows us to reprioritise £400 million over the next 18 months to fund the measures set out in "Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment".

The Department keeps financial allocations to its programmes under constant review and will publish updated budgets in the revised three-year business plan, which will be published before the end of the current financial year.

Departmental Public Relations

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on *(a)* communications, *(b)* marketing, *(c)* advertising and *(d)* external public relations in 2009. [317162]

Jonathan Shaw: The DWP communications team has a wide-ranging remit to support the delivery of the Department's objectives. This includes communicating with staff, the public, business and stakeholders on the help and support available throughout the downturn, eligibility for entitlements, pensions, additional help and support as well as encouraging saving for later life. The team works right across the breadth of the Department's responsibilities and includes providing services for Jobcentre Plus and the Pensions, Disability and Carers Service.

Spend information is available for financial years rather than calendar years. Fully audited figures for spend on advertising for 2009-10 are not available at this time. Therefore data supplied is for the 2008-09 financial year.

During 2008-09 financial year a total of £42.283 million was spent by DWP on all communication services. This total covers the spend with external marketing and communication suppliers but does not include internal staff costs and any communications interim personnel. In addition a further £1.735 million was spent on marketing and publicity services through the Department's print and associated services contract with iON during the 2008-09 period. These figures are against overall DWP running costs in 2008-09 of £7.9 billion (0.56 per cent. of overall spend).

Included in this, DWP spent £12.327 million on advertising in this period. All costs are exclusive of VAT, COI fees, advertising rebates and audit adjustments and are for media spend only. They also exclude the cost of creative work, research, production of supporting materials or launch events.

Again, included in the overall figure was a total of £1.2 million was spent by DWP on external public relations during 2008-09.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of her Department's staff at each grade work in the benefit simplification unit; what targets have been set for the unit; what recent progress reports the unit has published; what recommendations the unit has made since its inception; and how many such recommendations have been implemented. [318794]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 February 2010]*: The benefit simplification unit has three full-time staff (one SEO and two HEOs) with additional input from a senior civil servant (grade 5) and a grade 7.

Their role is to challenge existing complexity across the benefits system, and to ensure that the move towards a simpler, more transparent system is at the heart of future benefit design and delivery.

Progress on simplification is reported on annually in the departmental report, and the effectiveness of the unit is reflected in the extent to which key performance indicators are met across the Department, where these indicators are partly dependent on the complexity of the system.

Simplification measures—both of benefit rules and ease of customer access—introduced since the unit was set up include:

ignoring all final earnings on new claims to benefit (from October 2007). This got rid of a complex and error-prone part of assessing initial benefit entitlement;

the national roll-out of local housing allowance (April 2008), a major shift in the way housing payments are made in the private rented sector which makes them simpler and speedier to administer;

the introduction of employment and support allowance (October 2008), removed confusion resulting from the availability of two benefits for people who are ill or disabled—incapacity benefit, and income support—by replacing them with one simpler benefit for this client group;

paying all working age benefits on a common payday (to be completed by April 2011) instead of confusingly different paydays;

extending the Rapid Reclaim process since the last claim for jobseeker's allowance and income support from 12 to 26 weeks, providing a speedier service, with less form-filling;

transferring all our benefit internet services to Directgov, the main public services website. Customers can now get advice on what to claim on the benefit adviser and track the progress of claims via the secure Benefit Enquiry service.

Departmental Telephone Services

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate she has made of the proportion of benefit and pension claimants calling her Department's telephone inquiry lines from mobile telephones who are not to be charged for the cost of the call; and if she will make a statement. [317378]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's policy is that all calls to claim the state pension, jobseekers' allowance, employment support allowance as well as to ask for emergency payments or crisis loans, should be free. These 0800 numbers are already free from land lines, which around 70 per cent. of our callers use. The recent agreement with the five biggest UK mobile providers means that calls from their mobile phone networks to these specific 0800 numbers will now be free to their customers as well.

The Department uses 0845 telephone numbers where its customers call for other reasons, and these are calls that typically that take less time to resolve. The charges that apply to these calls will be set by the customer's telephone or mobile operator.

Where a customer calling our 0800 or 0845 services asks us, or raises concerns over the cost of the call, we will offer to call them back.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons 36 per cent. of employment support allowance cases conducted between October 2008 and February 2009 were closed before their assessment was completed. [318174]

Jonathan Shaw: A detailed breakdown of the information is not available.

There are many reasons why a claim may be closed before the assessment is complete, including people that only need to claim benefit for a short period of time due to a short-term illness or those who claim employment and support allowance completely in error.

As part of the evaluation of employment and support allowance we will be conducting research to examine in more detail those claims that are withdrawn before the assessment is completed.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects a system for the central holding of information relating to personal capability assessment and claims for incapacity benefit to be introduced. [318175]

Jonathan Shaw: We do not expect to develop a system that would track individuals claiming incapacity benefit through the assessment process. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance for new claimants in October 2008 and systems have been put in place for the tracking of people who claim employment support allowance. We do not intend to put systems in place for retrospectively tracking the result of assessment for historical claims.

Employment and Support Allowance: Disabled

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of applicants for employment and support allowance have been classified as disabled; [318287]

(2) how many and what proportion of applicants for employment and support allowance who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease have been classified as disabled; [318288]

(3) how many and what proportion of applicants for employment and support allowance who were previously in receipt of incapacity benefit have been classified as disabled; [318289]

(4) how many and what proportion of applicants for employment and support allowance who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and who were previously in receipt of incapacity benefit have been classified as disabled; [318290]

(5) what percentage of applicants for employment and support allowance diagnosed with fibromyalgia have been classified as disabled; [318396]

(6) what percentage of applicants for employment and support allowance diagnosed with fibromyalgia who had previously been in receipt of incapacity benefit have been classified as disabled. [318397]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not available.

Information on whether a claimant is disabled or not is not recorded for the purposes of employment and support allowance.

Employment Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what job outcome evidence her Department has collected for *(a)* the day one offer, *(b)* the six month offer, *(c)* support for unemployed professionals and executives and *(d)* the Flexible New Deal since that scheme was introduced. [309339]

Jim Knight: Information on job outcomes as a direct consequence of the day one offer, which includes support for unemployed professionals and executives, is not available.

The six month offer has a number of elements including the recruitment subsidy, self-employment credit, work-focused training and volunteering. Official statistics were published on 20 January 2010 which showed that between April 2009 and October 2009:

> 15,530 jobseeker's allowance customers have used the recruitment subsidy;
>
> 5,310 jobseeker's allowance customers have taken up the self-employment credit.

The first statistics on work-focused training were published on 17 February 2010. We are investigating the feasibility of reporting work-focused training job outcomes for future publications of six-month offer statistics. We are also looking into how we can calculate job outcomes for the volunteering offer as part of the official statistics publication.

The flexible new deal started on 5 October and official statistics will be available from autumn 2010.

Employment Schemes: Females

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department has taken to help new female claimants of jobseeker's allowance to find long-term employment in the last 12 months. [313526]

Jim Knight: All JSA customers are treated according to their individual circumstances, in keeping with a personalised and professional service and have the same access to the wide range of initiatives to help them return to work.

All departmental policies are subject to an Equality impact assessment and after implementation take up of programmes is monitored, including by gender, for further development of design and delivery.

Employment Schemes: Young People

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) in which *(a)* Jobcentre Plus districts, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* constituencies Future Jobs Fund jobs are not available to young people as part of the young person's guarantee; [317615]

(2) in which *(a)* Jobcentre Plus districts, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* constituencies not all of the elements of the young person's guarantee are available; and which such elements are (i) available and (ii) not available in each such area. [317616]

Jim Knight: In principle the Young Person's Guarantee, including the Future Jobs Fund, is available in all Jobcentre Plus districts, in all local authorities and in all constituencies, dependent on there being successful bids in these areas. In Scotland and Wales the training element of the young person's guarantee is provided by the devolved Administrations.

Employment: Scotland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate her Department has made of the number of people seeking employment in the *(a)* engineering industry, *(b)* life sciences sector, *(c)* renewable energy industry and *(d)* construction industry in Scotland. [317737]

Jim Knight: The information is not available, in the format requested.

Future Jobs Fund

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many accepted Future Jobs Fund bids were initially rejected. [304388]

Jim Knight: Where bidding organisations fail to meet the Future Jobs Fund assessment criteria they are provided with feedback and offered further support from DWP, Jobcentre Plus and the Government Office network to enable them to improve and submit their bids. As a result of this process, so far, 38 of the initially rejected organisations have subsequently successful.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many accepted Future Jobs Fund bids are expected to create fewer than 30 jobs. [304391]

Jim Knight: A total of 272 bids to the Future Jobs Fund have been accepted, which will create up to 110,000 Future Jobs Fund jobs.

We encourage partnership bids but would not necessarily rule out bids for fewer than 30 jobs.

So far, 18 of the 272 accepted bids are expected to create fewer than 30 jobs.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made of the number of jobs each accepted Future Jobs Fund bid will create. [304392]

Jim Knight: To date 255 bids have been successful and the Department for Work and Pensions has agreed to fund around 110,000 jobs.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many social enterprises have participated in the Future Jobs Fund; [315107]

(2) how many jobs created under the Future Jobs Fund have been in *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* third sector organisations. [315105]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the requested format.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2010 to the hon. Member for South Dorset, *Official Report*, column 258W, on the Future Jobs Fund, of the jobs announced to date for which it is possible to ascertain the location, how many are expected to be created in each local authority area; [317646]

(2) how many of the jobs announced to date are expected to be created in each constituency. [317647]

Jim Knight: Data on the Future Jobs Fund are not collected by local authority or by constituency, and as such the data of how many jobs are to be created in each are not available.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs in *(a)* the arts and *(b)* the media have been created under the Future Jobs Fund since its inception. [318595]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

My Department is working closely with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and we have created more than 6,500 job opportunities in the culture and sports sectors under the Future Jobs Fund.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate her Department has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of current claimants of incapacity benefit who are not required to meet any conditions in order to continue to receive the benefit. [317945]

Jonathan Shaw: All recipients of incapacity benefits must meet the conditions of entitlement in order to qualify for benefit.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of off-flows from incapacity benefit have been due to claimants moving into work in each year since 1997. [317946]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not available.

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the qualifying criteria are for industrial injuries disablement benefit for those with osteoarthritis of the knee. [318242]

Jonathan Shaw: In order to be entitled to industrial injuries disablement benefit (IIDB) in respect of osteoarthritis of the knee a person must satisfy criteria based on occupation and the level of disablement caused by the disease.

The occupational criteria are as follows:

Underground work as a coal miner up to the end of 1985.

If the work was after 1985, a person must have worked underground in one of the following occupations:

face worker working on a non-mechanised coal face; or

development worker; or

face-salvage worker; or

conveyor belt cleaner; or

conveyor belt attendant.

In total at least 10 years must be spent in the occupation. Pre- and post-1985 periods of employment in the relevant occupation can count towards the 10 year total.

If a person satisfies the occupational criteria the case is referred to medical services for advice on the level of disablement. For IIDB purposes, disablement is assessed by making a comparison with a person of the same age and sex whose physical and mental condition is normal. In each case, advice on the assessment of disablement and the likely duration is given by a doctor specially trained in industrial injuries disablement matters.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what means the proportion of disablement is determined for former miners making a claim for industrial injuries disablement benefit in respect of osteoarthritis of the knee. [318259]

Jonathan Shaw: The level of disablement for all customers who claim industrial injuries disablement benefit in respect of diseases and accidents caused by occupation is assessed as a percentage up to 100 per cent. The percentage determines the level of payment.

The customer will normally be asked to attend a medical examination carried out by a trained health care professional appointed by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, who will provide the decision-maker with advice on the level of disablement in each case, taking account of all the evidence available and comparing the customers condition as a result of the effects of the prescribed disease or accident with that of a normal healthy person of the same age and sex.

Jobcentre Plus: Expenditure

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much Jobcentre Plus in each region has spent on *(a)* redundancies and *(b)* recruitment in each month since January 2009; and if she will make a statement. [300692]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of jobseeker's allowance have been identified through the Labour Market System as being unemployed for 22 out of 24 months in the latest period for which figures are available. [317628]

Jim Knight: The information from the Labour Market System is not currently available.

We are not able to provide alternative information for all current claimants from the jobseeker's allowance databases (rather than the Labour Market System) because this would involve complex data linking and analysis and would be possible only at a disproportionate cost.

New Deal for Lone Parents

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people aged between 16 and 24 years old in *(a)* Chesterfield, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* England have taken part in the New Deal for Lone Parents in each month since January 2005. [318768]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 25 February 2010]*: The information is in the following yearly table:

	Chesterfield constituency	*Derbyshire*	*England*
2005			
January	10	30	2,650
February	10	30	2,460
March	—	20	2,220
April	—	20	2,710
May	10	30	2,080
June	10	20	1,910
July	10	20	2,520
August	10	40	1,960
September	10	30	3,100
October	10	30	2,370
November	10	30	2,300
December	—	10	1,470
2006			
January	—	10	2,140
February	—	20	2,230
March	—	30	2,530
April	—	10	1,450
May	—	20	1,620
June	—	10	1,870
July	—	10	1,470
August	10	20	1,420
September	—	20	2,170
October	—	10	1,740
November	—	10	1,850
December	—	10	1,430
2007			
January	—	10	2,320
February	10	20	2,570
March	10	30	3,710
April	—	20	2,050
May	10	30	2,250
June	10	30	2,580
July	10	20	2,150
August	10	20	2,490
September	—	20	2,670
October	10	40	2,850
November	10	40	3,520
December	—	20	1,500
2008			
January	—	20	2,630
February	10	40	3,650
March	—	20	2,380
April	10	30	2,650
May	10	20	2,990
June	10	30	2,660
July	10	30	2,560
August	—	20	3,020
September	10	30	3,160
October	10	40	3,560
November	—	20	2,350
December	10	20	1,290
2009			
January	—	20	2,330
February	—	20	1,880
March	10	20	1,990

	Chesterfield constituency	Derbyshire	England
April	—	10	1,490
May	10	30	1,970
June	—	30	1,610
July	10	40	2,090
August	10	40	1,760
September	—	40	2,250
October	10	50	2,710
November	10	40	2,100

Notes:

1. Definitions and conventions: "—" denotes nil or negligible. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Westminster parliamentary constituency: allocated (post May 2005) using the ONS postcode directory and customer's postcode.

3. The county of Derbyshire includes the local authorities: Amber Valley, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Derbyshire Dales, Erewash, High Peak, North East Derbyshire, and South Derbyshire.

4. Time series—month of starting: the calendar month of starting New Deal for Lone Parents. The latest data are to November 2009.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate

New Deal for Partners

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many partners in *(a)* Chesterfield, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* England have taken part in the New Deal for Partners in each month since January 2005. [318767]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 25 February 2010]*: The information is in the following yearly table. The numbers are the numbers of people starting in the New Deal for Partners in each month. The figures are available up to November 2009 For the Chesterfield constituency, the figures are shown as Nil throughout, the tables, because of the standard downward roundings used in the Department's monthly data. Annual figures show that 50 people started in the New Deal for Partners in the five years from 2005 to 2009 inclusive.

Numbers of people starting on New Deal for Partners 2005 to November 2009

	Chesterfield constituency	Derbyshire	England
2005			
January	—	10	190
February	—	—	180
March	—	—	220
April	—	—	240
May	—	—	150
June	—	10	150
July	—	—	170
August	—	10	90
September	—	—	180
October	—	10	120
November	—	10	120
December	—	—	80
2006			
January	—	—	120
February	—	10	160
March	—	10	200
April	—	10	110
May	—	10	130
June	—	—	150
July	—	—	120
August	—	10	110
September	—	—	130
October	—	—	110
November	—	10	160
December	—	10	150
2007			
January	—	10	180
February	—	—	200
March	—	—	240
April	—	—	140
May	—	10	140
June	—	10	180
July	—	10	150
August	—	—	120
September	—	—	150
October	—	10	120
November	—	—	160
December	—	—	80
2008			
January	—	10	160
February	—	—	180
March	—	—	120
April	—	—	130
May	—	—	150
June	—	10	150
July	—	—	180
August	—	—	130
September	—	—	190
October	—	—	200
November	—	10	170
December	—	—	70
2009			
January	—	—	150
February	—	—	110
March	—	—	170
April	—	—	100
May	—	—	120
June	—	—	110
July	—	10	140
August	—	10	120
September	—	—	140
October	—	—	190
November	—	—	160

Notes:

1. Definitions and Conventions: "—" denotes Nil or negligible. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Westminster Parliamentary Constituency: allocated (post May 2005) using the ONS postcode directory and customer's postcode.

3. The County of Derbyshire includes the local authorities: Amber Valley, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Derbyshire Dales, Erewash, High Peak, North East Derbyshire, and South Derbyshire.

4. Time series - month of starting: the calendar month of starting New Deal for Partners. The latest data is to November 2009.

5. Spells are not available for New Deal for Partners so individual level data is used instead. This means that only the most recent entry to the New Deal for Partners is included.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate

Pathways to Work

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will publish the latest cumulative performance data for Pathways to Work providers. [315718]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 3 February 2010]*: These statistics were published on 23 February 2010.

Pathways to Work: Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Feltham and Heston constituency have *(a)* started Pathways to Work and *(b)* made recorded job starts under Pathways to Work in each year since the inception of the programme; and how many of those who started a job remain in employment. [316663]

Jonathan Shaw: Information requested is not available.

Pensioners: Poverty

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many pensioners resident in Stroud constituency were officially defined as poor in each year since 1997; [318979]

(2) what her most recent estimate is of the level of pensioner poverty in Stroud constituency; and what steps her Department has taken to assist those affected. [318980]

Angela Eagle: The Government use a basket of three key thresholds of income, after housing costs, to measure pensioner poverty. The most commonly used figures relate to those with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, after housing costs.

Estimates of poverty, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall number of people in poverty at Government office region level. Therefore, information for the Stroud constituency is not available, though figures relating to the south-west Government office region are.

Three-year averages are used to report regional statistics as single-year estimates are subject to volatility. Figures are quoted to the nearest 100,000. The following table shows the number and percentage of pensioners in the south-west Government office region who have incomes below 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income:

Number and percentage of pensioners in the south-west Government office region with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median after housing costs

	Number of pensioners	Percentage of pensioners
1997-98 to 1999-2000	300,000	28
1998-99 to 2000-01	300,000	26
1999-2000 to 2001-02	200,000	25
2000-01 to 2002-03	200,000	24
2001-02 to 2003-04	200,000	22
2002-03 to 2004-05	200,000	19
2003-04 to 2005-06	200,000	16
2004-05 to 2006-07	200,000	16
2005-06 to 2007-08	200,000	18

Notes:

1. Figures are published in the Households Below Average Incomes (HBAI) series for 2007-08, and are based on FES figures up to 1997-98, and on the FRS from 1998-99. Three sample years have been combined for regional statistics as single year estimates are subject to volatility.
2. Number of pensioners has been rounded to the nearest 100,000. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole percentage point.
3. Changes between periods are calculated based on unrounded figures and therefore may differ from the difference between the rounded figures presented above.

The final row in this table, covering the three year period 2005-06 to 2007-08 is the most recent estimate of pensioner poverty in the south-west region produced in the Department.

Our strategy since 1997 has been to target help on the poorest pensioners while providing a solid foundation of support for all.

We have a good track record of reducing pensioner poverty. In 2007-08 there were 900,000 fewer pensioners in relative poverty than in 1998-99 (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income after housing costs). Today's pensioners are less likely to be living in relative poverty after housing costs than the population as a whole.

In 1997, the poorest pensioners, who received Income Support, lived on around £69 a week (equivalent to £98 a week in today's prices). Today pension credit ensures that no pensioner needs to live on less than £130 a week or £198.45 a week for couples). This represents an increase in income by almost a third in real terms. And many of those on pension credit will also be entitled to additional support through housing benefit and council tax benefit.

The Pension, Disability and Carers Service continue to promote take-up of benefits for those entitled. This involves data matching to identify entitled non-recipients, home visits for vulnerable customers, targeted local marketing and media campaigns, a simple claim process involving telephones as well as paper claims and ever closer working with partner organisations. The Department is also looking at innovative ways of using information that we already hold to make payments of pension credit more automatically to entitled non-recipients.

In the Pensions Act 2007, we made a commitment to continue to uprate the pension credit standard minimum guarantee at least in line with average earnings over the long-term. The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has commented that without this, it is likely there would be significant increases in pensioner poverty in the future.

We have also made a commitment to re-link the uprating of the basic state pension to average earnings. Our objective, subject to affordability and the fiscal position, is to do this in 2012, but in any event by the end of the next Parliament at the latest. This will benefit almost 12 million pensioners.

Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to ensure that eligible pensioners receive their entitlement to *(a)* cold weather payments and *(b)* pension credit; and if she will make a statement. [319055]

Angela Eagle: The Government are committed to helping vulnerable customers to heat their homes during the cold weather, so we are continuing cold weather payments. These provide £25 towards eligible customers' heating costs during each consecutive seven-day period of very cold weather. There is no need to claim as eligible customers are paid automatically when payments are triggered in their area.

External communications, including media and web interviews and briefings for welfare organisations, focus on reassuring customers that they will get payments and do not need to make a claim. An online tool is available on the Directgov website where people can find out about eligibility and whether payments have been triggered in their area. There is also a leaflet, 'The Social Fund' which provides information.

The Government are also committed to reducing pensioner poverty and works hard to ensure pensioners are aware of pension credit. The claims process has been simplified and since November 2008 telephone claims for housing benefit and council tax benefit can be forwarded directly to the local authority.

Targeted take-up campaigns continue in selected regions to raise awareness and to encourage customers to apply. The campaign uses a range or methods including targeted direct mail, supported by sustained media coverage as well as community advertising.

When contacted, customer advisers in the Pension, Disability and Carers Service discuss pension credit with those who may be eligible and it also conducts around 13,000 home visits a week for vulnerable customers ensuring they are receiving the benefits they are entitled to.

Joint Working Partnerships have been established with all 203 primary-tier local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales. These enable the Pension, Disability and Carers Service, local authorities and the voluntary sector to provide a single point of access to social care and benefit entitlement.

Self-employed

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have moved into self-employment under the six-month offer introduced on 6 April 2009; how many people have received the self-employment credit; how much has been spent in total on the self-employment credit; and what estimate she has made of the average cost of movement into self-employment under the offer. [316977]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* Under the jobseeker's allowance self-employment offer, there are two elements to the help we give people who want to move into self-employment or start a business—self-employment advice and support through our expert partners, and financial support for those leaving jobseeker's allowance and becoming self-employed.

Between April and October 2009, 5,310 jobseeker's allowance recipients have left benefit and claimed the self-employment credit as they moved into self-employment.

Total spend on the self-employment credit up to the end of October 2009 was £2,267,776 with a unit cost of up to a maximum of £800 per start (up to 16 weeks at £50 per week). The average cost is not available.

Snow and Ice

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the costs to her Department arising from the severe weather conditions in the period 4 January to 18 January 2010; and if she will make a statement. [313594]

Jim Knight: The severe weather experienced between 4 and 18 January 2010 had no significant impact on the operations of the Department for Work and Pensions and JCP and consequently no such estimate has been made.

In addition, between 4 and 18 January, for Great Britain, an estimated 6.9 million cold weather payments worth an estimated £174 million were authorised.

Social Security Benefits

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much her Department has spent on *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* employment and support allowance and *(c)* severe disablement allowance awarded on the basis of (i) drug or alcohol dependency and (ii) alcoholic liver disease in each year since 1997; [309342]

(2) how much her Department has spent on disability living allowance awarded on the basis of alcoholic liver disease in each year since 1997; [309343]

(3) how much her Department has spent on disability living allowance awarded on the basis of drug or alcohol dependency in each year since 1997; [309344]

(4) how many claimants received awards of *(a)* disability living allowance only, *(b)* incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance or severe disablement allowance only and *(c)* both disability living allowance and incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance or severe disablement allowance on the basis of alcoholic liver disease in each year since 1997; [309345]

(5) how many claimants received awards of disability living allowance on the basis of alcoholic liver disease in each year since 1997; [309346]

(6) how many claimants received awards of disability living allowance on the basis of drug or alcohol dependency in each year since 1997; [309347]

(7) how many claimants received awards of *(a)* disability living allowance only, *(b)* incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance or severe disablement allowance only and *(c)* both disability living allowance and incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance or severe disablement allowance on the basis of drug or alcohol dependency in each of ~~the last~~ 10 years. [309348]

Jonathan Shaw: Entitlement to incapacity benefits and disability living allowance is not dependent on a diagnosis or condition but relies instead on the effects that a person's condition has on their ability to carry out a number of everyday activities. The focus of the relevant medical assessment for incapacity benefits determines the extent to which these effects impact on a person, and benefit is only awarded after specific criteria are met. Similarly, entitlement to disability living allowance is not dependent on a diagnosis or condition but relies instead on the care and/or mobility needs arising.

Only the primary medical diagnosis written on a claimant's medical certificate is recorded for benefit purposes. However, many of those who claim benefit with a diagnosis of drug or alcohol dependency will also have other underlying medical conditions such as mental/psychiatric illness. Information on the cost and numbers of people on benefit who claim with a diagnosis of alcoholic liver disease is not available.

From 27 October 2008 we replaced incapacity benefits for new customers with the employment and support allowance and a revised medical assessment which focuses on what people can do, as well as what they cannot.

Medical conditions information for employment and support allowance is not yet available.

The available information has been placed in the Library. It should be noted however that this represents a subset of the total number of customers claiming these benefits who suffer from an alcohol or drug dependency

Social Security Benefits: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of claimants of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* income support, *(c)* incapacity benefit and *(d)* employment and support allowance who were alcohol mis-users in each of the last five years. [316765]

Jim Knight: The information is not available. Alcohol misuse is a concern for the Government and work is currently under way within the Department for Work and Pensions to derive robust estimates of alcohol misuse amongst the benefit population.

Social Security Benefits: Armed Forces

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance her Department has issued on the treatment in the benefits system of *(a)* current members of the armed forces, *(b)* spouses and immediate family members of members of the armed forces and *(c)* former members of the armed forces. [316487]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions and its executive agencies take into account an individual's circumstances as a matter of course, including current and former service personnel and their families.

The Service Command Paper 'The Nation's Commitment: Cross-Government Support to our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans' [Cm 7424] published in July 2008 contained a number of departmental commitments to further support service personnel families and former members of the armed forces. These included an agreement to use service medical board evidence when considering entitlement to Employment Support Allowance (supporting guidance was issued to Jobcentre Plus staff in October 2009) and the Department's commitment to award Class 1 National Insurance Credits to spouses and civil partners of service personnel posted overseas with effect from April 2010. This will enable more members of service personnel families to qualify for Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance and basic State Pension. Staff in my Department are currently working with colleagues in Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and Ministry of Defence to produce guidance on this for our staff and customers. This will include producing a customer fact sheet, providing advice to go into the packs given to members of Her Majesty's forces when a posting outside the UK is about to end and making information, including the application form for the credits, available online via the Department for Work and Pensions and Ministry of Defence websites. The addresses are:

www.dwp.gov.uk

www.mod.uk

General guidance on the application and interpretation of Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance rules for our Decision Makers can be found in the Decision Makers Guide. A copy of the Guide is available in the Library and on the Department for Work and Pensions' website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/specialist-guides/decision-makers-guide/

Following the Home Office announcement last year that all Gurkhas who retired before 1 July 1997 with four years service would be able to settle in the UK, the Pension, Disability and Carers Service has been working with other Government Departments on plans for their arrival.

Internal guidance is being prepared for issue shortly to Pension, Disability and Carers Service staff to help them respond to the needs of ex-Gurkhas.

In the calculation of entitlement to housing benefit and council tax benefit, a mandatory £10 disregard of income from war pensions (war disablement pension, a pension to a war widow or war widower or a similar pension paid to a surviving civil partner), applies. In addition, local authorities have discretionary powers to disregard some or all of any income from war pensions, including service attributable pensions, once the mandatory disregard of £10 has been made. It is a matter for each authority to decide the extent to which they apply the additional disregard. We have recently issued guidance clarifying that service attributable pensions fall to be disregarded under the discretionary powers.

Social Security Benefits: Departmental Coordination

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what additional processing work attributable to the recession which has fallen to her Department is being undertaken with the assistance of staff from other Government departments; and if she will make a statement. [301739]

Jim Knight: The Pensions, Disability and Carers Service and the Child Support Agency have not taken on any staff from other Departments to process additional work as a result of the recession.

In the 12 month period from October 2008 to September 2009 Jobcentre Plus have recruited 1,095 staff from other Government Departments.

Social Security Benefits: Drugs

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of claimants of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* income support, *(c)* incapacity benefit and *(d)* employment and support allowance who were problem drug users in each of the last five years. [316775]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 February 2010]*: In 2008 the Department for Work and Pensions published a research report: 'Population estimates of problematic drug users in England who access DWP benefits: A feasibility study', working paper No. 46, Hay, G. and Bauld, L. that estimated the number of problem drug users claiming various benefits. Such information as is available is presented in the following table.

Estimated number of claimants who are problem drug users by benefit type in 2006

Benefit	*Number of claimants*
Jobseeker's allowance	60,000
Incapacity benefit	87,000
Income support	146,000
Total number of problem drug users on the above benefits	267,000

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. Problem drug users are defined as those who use heroin and/or crack cocaine and includes those who are in treatment for their dependency.
3. The sum of the component benefits is greater than the total number of problem drug users estimated to be in receipt of the main benefits. This is because claimants can be in receipt of Incapacity Benefit and Income Support at the same time.
4. The figures relate to 2006 and therefore predate the introduction of employment support allowance.

Source:

Population estimates of problematic drug users in England who access Department for Work and Pensions benefits: A feasibility study. Working Paper No. 46. Hay, G. and Bauld, L.

Social Security Benefits: Employment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claimants of employment and support allowance have left the benefit for employment since its introduction. [318795]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 February 2010]:* The information requested is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Fibromyalgia

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance her Department has issued to examining medical practitioners carrying out assessments for eligibility for disability living allowance and employment and support allowance on fibromyalgia. [318398]

Jonathan Shaw: All examining Atos Healthcare professionals, who carry out examining assessments on behalf of the Department, undertake a distance learning module on fibromyalgia within 12 months of joining the organisation. The distance learning module is approved by the chief medical adviser to the Department. In addition, they are required to undertake a programme of continuing medical education that is agreed with the Department. A module on chronic fatigue syndrome and fibromyalgia is included in the suite of continuing medical education topics available to the health care professionals.

Entitlement to disability living allowance is not based on the diagnosis of a particular disability or illness but on the effects of disability on the individual person. It is the information about care and/or mobility needs which a person provides on the claim form, supported where necessary by medical reports from a GP or Atos Healthcare professional, which allows the decision-maker to determine entitlement.

Social Security Benefits: Na h-Eileanan an Iar

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of pension credits in Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average weekly payment was in such credits in that constituency in that period. [319013]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is in following table.

Recipients of pension credit in the Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency, as at August 2009

	Number/£
Individual beneficiaries	2,870
Households recipients	2,380
Average weekly award of pension credit	55.17

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
3. Pension credit is claimed on a household basis. The average weekly award of pension credit is in relation to the household.
4. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Social Security Benefits: Obesity

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of claimants of (a) employment and support allowance, (b) incapacity benefit and (c) severe disablement allowance who have a primary diagnosis of obesity which limits their ability to work in the latest period for which figures are available. [316778]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 February 2010]:* To qualify for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work called the personal capability assessment. Therefore, the medical condition recorded on the claim form does not in itself confer entitlement to benefit. This means that the decision for a customer who has claimed incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance because of obesity would be based on their ability to carry out a range of activities in the personal capability assessment. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.

Employment and support allowance was introduced from October 2008 for new customers only. It replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity or disability. Data by medical conditions are not yet available for employment and support allowance.

The available information is provided in the table.

Number of claimants of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance with obesity as the main disabling condition Great Britain and abroad as at May 2009

	Number
Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance	2,040
Incapacity benefit	1,940
Severe disablement allowance	90

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of *(a)* incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and *(b)* employment and support allowance had a primary diagnosis of obesity in (i) each of the last five years and (ii) each of the last four quarters for which figures are available. [316978]

Jonathan Shaw: To qualify for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work called the personal capability assessment. Therefore, the medical condition recorded on the claim form does not in itself confer entitlement to benefit. This means that the decision for a customer who has claimed incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance because of obesity would be based on their ability to carry out a range of activities in the personal capability assessment. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.

The available information is provided in the table.

Number of claimants of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance with obesity as the main disabling condition Great Britain and abroad May 2005 to May 2009

	Incapacity benefit/ severe disablement allowance	*Incapacity benefit*	*Severe disablement allowance*
May 2005	1,830	1,710	120
May 2006	1,890	1,790	110
May 2007	1,980	1,880	100
May 2008	2,070	1,970	100
August 2008	2,130	2,030	100
November 2008	2,140	2,040	100
February 2009	2,110	2,010	90
May 2009	2,040	1,940	90

Notes
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Data by medical conditions is not yet available for employment and support allowance.
Source
Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

State Retirement Pensions

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees of each *(a)* sex and *(b)* age have been contracted (i) in and (ii) out of the state second pension scheme in each year since 2004. [318812]

Angela Eagle: The available information is in the following tables.

Contracted out/in status during the year

		Employees (Thousand)		
Tax year	*Contracted out/in status*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*
2007-08	Both contracted in and contracted out	5,048	3,127	1,921
	Contracted out only	3,493	1,121	2,372
	Contracted in only	18,176	8,681	9,495
	Total	26,717	12,929	13,788
2006-07	Both contracted in and contracted out	5,270	3,175	2,095
	Contracted out only	4,040	1,289	2,751
	Contracted in only	17,011	8,203	8,808
	Total	26,320	12,666	13,653
2005-06	Both contracted in and contracted out	5,494	3,284	2,210
	Contracted out only	4,460	1,416	3,043
	Contracted in only	16,138	7,828	8,310
	Total	26,091	12,528	13,563
2004-05	Both contracted in and contracted out	5,512	3,253	2,260
	Contracted out only	5,004	1,565	3,440
	Contracted in only	14,871	7,342	7,529
	Total	25,388	12,159	13,229

Contracted out/in status during the year

		Employees (Thousand)						
Tax year	*Contracted out/in status*	*Total*	*Under 20*	*20 to 29*	*30 to 39*	*40 to 49*	*50 to 59*	*60 to 64*
2007-08	Both contracted in and contracted out	5,048	17	733	1,275	1,655	1,228	140
	Contracted out only	3,493	—	172	1,029	1,393	817	82
	Contracted in only	18,176	556	5,200	4,505	3,841	3,243	832
	Total	26,717	572	6,105	6,810	6,889	5,287	1,053
2006-07	Both contracted in and contracted out	5,270	35	841	1,403	1,698	1,174	119
	Contracted out only	4,040	—	219	1,267	1,515	943	96
	Contracted in only	17,011	547	4,975	4,290	3,576	2,970	654

Contracted out/in status during the year

Employees (Thousand)

Tax year	*Contracted out/in status*	*Total*	*Under 20*	*20 to 29*	*30 to 39*	*40 to 49*	*50 to 59*	*60 to 64*
	Total	26,320	582	6,034	6,960	6,789	5,086	869
2005-06	Both contracted in and contracted out	5,493	32	904	1,557	1,754	1,155	91
	Contracted out only	4,460	—	255	1,436	1,591	1,070	107
	Contracted in only	16,138	587	4,776	4,136	3,399	2,776	465
	Total	26,091	619	5,935	7,129	6,744	5,001	664
2004-05	Both contracted in and contracted out	5,512	38	944	1,658	1,738	1,071	63
	Contracted out only	5,004	*1	312	1,678	1,720	1,170	124
	Contracted in only	14,871	613	4,503	3,861	3,082	2,497	315
	Total	25,388	652	5,760	7,197	6,540	4,738	502

Notes:

1. Asterisks indicate a high degree of sampling error and should only be used as a guide.
2. Dashes represent nil or negligible numbers of individuals.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 should be regarded as provisional and may be subject to changes in future releases.

4. Ages of individuals are taken to be ages at the end of the relevant tax year—e.g. on 5 April 2008 for the 2007-08 tax year

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Lifetime Labour Market Database 1 per cent. sample of the National Insurance Recording System

Unemployment Benefits

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what sanctions are available in relation to compulsory employment or training programmes; and how many times each such sanction has been used in each year since 1997; [313082]

(2) how many times each type of sanction available for *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit, *(c)* employment and support allowance and *(d)* income support has been used in each year since 1997. [313083]

Jim Knight: Data on sanctions is available for jobseeker's allowance from the year 2000. Data on sanctions is not available for income support, incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance.

Questions about entitlement to jobseeker's allowance can arise at any time from the commencement of a claim. For example, if there is doubt around whether the jobseeker's agreement (JSAg) is suitable, whether the claimant is actively looking for work or making them self available for work. In most cases payment of Jobseeker's Allowance will be suspended until the doubt is resolved.

The following types of sanctions are available for jobseeker's allowance claimants:

> Varied Length Sanctions: A sanction of between one week and 26 weeks is imposed for leaving employment voluntarily without just cause, refusing employment without good cause, or losing employment through misconduct. The actual period in each case is at the discretion of the adjudication officer who makes the decision.
>
> Fixed Length Sanctions: A sanction of two weeks (four weeks if repeated within 12 months, and 26 weeks if already received a four week sanction within last 12 months) are imposed for refusal, without good cause, to attend an employment programme or carry out a jobseeker's direction. Payment of benefit continues in full pending the adjudication officer's decision on a sanction question.

Data on the number of times each type of sanction available for jobseeker's allowance has been used in each year since 2000, including those that are available in relation to compulsory employment or training programmes, has been placed in the Library.

This information is also published on the Department for Work and Pensions website:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Please note, in 2006 the Department refreshed the delivery of the jobseeker's allowance regime within Jobcentre Plus ensuring that all customers were receiving the right support at the right time. This led to a strengthening of the rights and responsibilities agenda which underpins the regime.

This coincides with the increase in jobseekers who were sanctioned between 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate her Department has made of its expenditure on out-of-work benefits in each year since 1980, expressed in real terms; [317619]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of its expenditure on unemployment benefits in each year since 1980, expressed in real terms; [317620]

(3) what estimate her Department has made of its expenditure on out-of-work benefits in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 expressed, in real terms; [317642]

(4) what estimate her Department has made of its expenditure on unemployment benefits in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11, expressed in real terms. [317643]

Jim Knight: The available information is in the following table:

Expenditure on out-of-work benefits in Great Britain, 1980-81 to 2010-11

£ million (2009-10 prices)

	Incapacity-related benefits (including income support)	*Income support for lone parents*	*Jobseeker's allowance*	*Total*
Status Outturn				
1980-81	5,947	618	5,554	12,119
1981-82	6,146	761	7,683	14,589

Expenditure on out-of-work benefits in Great Britain, 1980-81 to 2010-11

£ million (2009-10 prices)

	Incapacity-related benefits (including income support)	*Income support for lone parents*	*Jobseeker's allowance*	*Total*
982-83	6,129	1,086	9,044	16,259
983-84	7,143	1,377	10,233	18,754
984-85	7,528	1,486	10,832	19,846
985-86	7,700	1,690	11,208	20,598
986-87	8,429	1,938	11,490	21,857
987-88	8,635	1,989	9,647	20,270
1988-89	9,073	1,985	6,800	17,858
1989-90	9,339	1,936	5,166	16,440
1990-91	9,751	2,224	5,634	17,609
1991-92	10,919	2,722	8,159	21,800
1992-93	12,095	2,962	9,642	24,699
1993-94	13,433	3,107	9,650	26,190
1994-95	13,845	3,611	8,229	25,685
1995-96	14,086	3,723	7,434	25,243
1996-97	14,068	3,621	6,297	23,986
1997-98	13,815	3,304	4,730	21,850
1998-99	13,791	3,039	4,229	21,059
1999-2000	13,523	2,799	3,787	20,109
2000-01	13,815	2,844	3,243	19,902
2001-02	13,835	2,712	2,858	19,405
2002-03	13,571	2,399	2,784	18,754
2003-04	13,458	2,564	2,671	18,693
2004-05	13,214	2,378	2,326	17,918
2005-06	13,084	2,225	2,534	17,842
2006-07	12,807	2,143	2,612	17,562
2007-08	12,836	2,220	2,342	17,398
2008-09	12,503	2,088	2,916	17,506
Status: Forecast				
2009-10	13,512	2,223	4,950	20,685
2010-11	13,533	1,831	5,642	21,006

Notes:

1. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

2. Figures in the table have been adjusted to provide a consistent series throughout the period. Specifically, the following expenditure has been excluded from the table: Expenditure on invalidity benefit and incapacity benefit for people aged above state pension age, which was phased out between 1995 and 2000. Expenditure on income support in residential care and nursing homes, which was transferred to the Department of Health in 2002 and 2003. Child allowances in income support and jobseeker's allowance, which from 2003 were gradually replaced by child tax credit. 3. The JSA figures shown in the table are based on HM Treasury's assumption for claimant unemployment, which itself is based on forecasts from around 30 independent forecasters and is audited by the National Audit Office. It is intended as a cautious planning assumption, and does not represent the Treasury's own economic forecast.

Sources:

1. DWP Statistical and Accounting data.

2. Pre-Budget report forecasts.

Unemployment: Parents

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households there were in which *(a)* both parents and *(b)* one parent in a married or cohabiting couple claimed jobseeker's allowance in each year since 2005. [316636]

Jim Knight: The information is not available.

Work Capability Assessment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 213W, on social security benefits: medical examinations, what guidance her Department issues to ATOS Medical assessors on work capability assessments. [318180]

Jonathan Shaw: The main guidance for examining Atos Healthcare professionals, who carry out the work capability assessments on behalf of the Department, is the Employment and Support Allowance handbook which has been developed in conjunction with the Chief Medical Adviser to the Department. This complements the training that the health care professionals receive to carry out the work capability assessment.

Work Capability Assessment: Parkinson's Disease

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance her Department has issued to GPs on Parkinson's disease and medical assessments of individuals' fitness for work. [319452]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions does not issue guidance to GPs on Parkinson's disease. However, all healthcare professionals working for Atos Healthcare, who undertake work capability and personal capability assessments on behalf of the Department, are issued with an evidence based protocol on Parkinson's disease.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anti-terrorism Control Orders

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1054W, on control orders, if he will hold discussions with law reporters on arrangements for reports of control order judgments and interim orders; and if he will make a statement. [318761]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 25 February 2010]*: My officials will hold discussions with the Ministry of Justice to explore the issues in relation to the reporting of closed judgments and interim orders.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department and its agencies have made of the accuracy of the data stored on the Automatic Number Plate Recognition databases for which they are responsible; and whether he has made a recent estimate of the proportion of entries on such databases which contain incorrect information. [318115]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems are owned and operated by individual police forces. Number plates read by police force cameras are fed into local Back Office Facility (BOF) databases before being forwarded to the National ANPR Data Centre (NADC) which is managed by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA).

Chief Constables are "data controllers in common" for ANPR data and are responsible for the accuracy of the data. The National ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) ANPR Standards (NAAS) set out clearly the criteria for ANPR data quality.

While no estimate has been made of the proportion of incorrect interpretations of number plates, an image of the plate is stored with each record of a sighting. The plate text is never used without the image being viewed and such information would not be acted upon without further information or intelligence.

Blaydon

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to the Blaydon constituency, the effects on Blaydon of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [315300]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has introduced a range of policies and initiatives since 2000. However, it is not always possible to quantify their effects particularly at constituency level. The available statistical information therefore relates to the Gateshead crime and disorder reduction partnership area.

In terms of police recorded crime in Gateshead, between 2002-03 and 2008-09, total recorded crime fell by 41 per cent. More specifically:

Violence against the person—down 36 per cent;

Sexual offences—down 37 per cent;

Robbery—down 68 per cent;

Burglary—down 50 per cent;

Offences against vehicles—down 49 per cent;

Other theft offences—down 38 per cent;

Criminal damage—down 36 per cent;

Drug offences—down 40 per cent.

Data prior to 2002-03 are not directly comparable because of the introduction of the national crime recording standard in April 2002.

Gateshead basic command unit had 443 police officers as at 30 March 2009. The number of police officers has increased by 33 since 2003. Comparisons with 2000 for Gateshead BCU are not available. There were 35 police community support officers as at 30 March 2009 while there were none in existence in 2000.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 saw positive effects with the statutory duty to create a crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP).

Gateshead CDRP is a merged CDRP/drug and alcohol action team and forms part of the local strategic partnership sub-group safer stronger communities and culture partnership. There is a genuine partnership with police, local authority and other key stakeholders problem solving to tackle complex issues.

Generally crime performance is positive. The overall rate of violence with injury per 1,000 population is lower than the regional and national averages.

Gateshead, as part of Northumbria police force, has been part of the Tackling Knives Action Programme in 2009-10. This has provided additional funding for prevention and education activity on knife crime and serious youth violence, as well as additional enforcement operations. The partnership has have also received funding and support from the Home Office and Ministry of Justice to tackle domestic and sexual violence including the development of multi area risk assessment conference (MARAC), a special domestic violence court (SDVC) and associated independent domestic violence advisers (IDVA).

Safer Gateshead uses antisocial behaviour tools and powers effectively. It is currently reviewing its delivery to provide a graded approach to ASB with a focus on early intervention.

Gateshead agreed to become a Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Pioneer Area in 2009. As a pioneer, it has dedicated resource to work with its communities to address local concerns on crime, antisocial behaviour and justice. The partnership uses Community Payback effectively as part of this approach.

Gateshead is an intensive drug intervention programme (DIP) area and tackles drug-related offending through drug-testing on arrest and restriction on bail provisions thereby allowing more offenders to be targeted and steered into treatment and out of crime. Gateshead's DIP budget for 2009-10 is £637,363. In 2008-09 there were 2,255 positive drug tests with 945 problem drug users (crack and/or opiate users) recorded as being in effective drug treatment.

The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

Burglary

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the rate of recovery has been of items stolen in reported incidents of aggravated burglary in each of the last five years; [315455]

(2) what proportion of reports of aggravated burglary to the police have resulted in *(a)* an arrest of a suspect and *(b)* a conviction in each of the last five years; [315456]

(3) how many incidents of aggravated burglary there were in *(a)* the Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England and Wales in each of the last five years. [315458]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 4 February 2010]*: Statistics in relation to recovery rates for items stolen is not collected centrally.

In relation to part *(a)* of the second question, the arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime broken down by offence group eg violence against the person, sexual offences, burglary etc. Data for component offences within each offence group is not available and therefore data on arrests for aggravated burglary cannot be provided.

Referring to part *(b)* of the second question, the number of people found guilty at all courts for 'aggravated burglary', England and Wales 2004 to 2008, the latest available, is given in table 1. Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication in the autumn, 2010.

The available information for the third question relates to offences recorded by the police and is given in table 2.

Table 1. Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for aggravated burglary[1], England and Wales 2004 to 2008[2, 3, 4]

	Found guilty
2004	284
2005	245
2006	248
2007	264
2008	292

[1] Includes the following offences:

i. Aggravated burglary in a dwelling.

ii. Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling.

[2] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes convictions data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice 080-10

Table 2. Recorded offences of 'aggravated burglary' from 2004-05 to 2008-09

Area	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Aggravated burglary in a dwelling[1]					
Ribble Valley CDRP[3]	0	0	1	1	3
Lancashire PFA[4]	82	76	72	72	34
England and Wales	2,538	2,162	1,806	1,572	1,455
Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling[2]					
Ribble Valley CDRP[3]	0	1	0	0	0
Lancashire PFA[4]	1	7	8	9	2
England and Wales	453	356	279	214	182

[1] Domestic burglary.

[2] Non-domestic burglary.

[3] Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

[4] Police force area.

Control Orders

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on private security firms in respect of the oversight of individuals subject to a control order in each financial year since 2006-07. [319178]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* The only involvement of private security firms in the oversight of individuals subject to a control order relates to the electronic monitoring of those individuals. This is carried out under contracts currently held by the Ministry of Justice. These contracts also cover all electronic monitoring of individuals within the criminal justice system in England and Wales.

The cost of the electronic monitoring of controlled individuals to the Ministry of Justice from April 2007 is set out in the following table. No breakdown of the costs of monitoring individuals subject to a control order is available for the period prior to April 2007 when these contracts were held by the Home Office.

Financial year	*Cost of electronic monitoring of control orders to the Ministry of Justice (£)*
2007-08[1]	74,900
2008-09	72,700
2009-10 (to the end of August)[2]	32,300

[1] The figure for 2007-08 is based partly on estimates.

[2] The figure for 2009-10 represents the most recent figure provided to the Ministry of Justice by the monitoring companies during the financial year and is based partly on estimates.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000: Prosecutions

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions, *(b)* convictions and *(c)* orders there have been under section 14 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. [318498]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

Section 14(1) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 relates to

> "placing or maintaining on access land notice deterring public use".

Section 14(2) and (3) stipulates

> "failure to comply with court order to remove notice deterring public use".

Data available on the Court Proceedings Database show that, between 2000 and 2008 (latest available), in 2002 there was one prosecution and one finding of guilt under section 14 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. These data include section 14 sub-sections (1) (2) and (3) and it is therefore not possible to identify whether the proceedings were for placing or maintaining a notice or failure to comply with a court order.

Court proceedings data given above are on the principle offence basis which relates to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. For example, when a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication in the autumn, 2010.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department plans to spend on television advertisements in 2009-10. [318974]

Mr. Woolas: During the financial year 2009-10 the Home Office has spent £4,344,769 on TV advertising.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many special advisers have been employed by his Department in each year since 1997; and what the average salary was for those special advisers in each such year. [317576]

Alan Johnson: The Government are committed to publishing an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers. Information for 2009-10 was published by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 74WS. This information has been published since 2003.

Information prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and is available in the Library of the House.

Deportation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many migrants were deported from the UK on the grounds that their presence was not conducive to the public good in each of the past 10 years. [318700]

Alan Johnson: In 2008 and 2009, the UK Border Agency removed or deported approximately 11,000 offenders. Of these, approximately 30 per cent. will have been removed on 'conducive' grounds. Information on those removed on conducive grounds from before 2008 would necessitate reviewing individual removal records. This would be a disproportionate cost.

This information is taken from Internal Management Information and is subject to change.

Deportation: Offenders

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals sentenced to one year or more in prison were not removed from the UK following the end of their sentence in each of the last 10 years. [318772]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 25 February 2010]:* Between 2007 and 2009, the UK Border Agency removed approximately 15,000 foreign national offenders from the UK. Of these, approximately two-thirds had previously received a single or cumulative sentence of one year or more of which one-third were removed either before or within one month of the end of their sentence. The remainder were not removed following the end of their sentence and were, instead, either detained in a prison, an immigration removal centre, or released under UK Border Agency contact management conditions or by the Independent Tribunal Service on bail. Information regarding removals from before 2007 is not available electronically and could be obtained only by reviewing individual records. This would incur a disproportionate cost.

This answer is based on internal management information and is subject to change.

Drugs: Crime

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the trends in levels of illegal drugs sold by Somali nationals in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* England and Wales. [318205]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* A formal assessment into the trends in the sales of illegal drugs by Somali nationals has not been made. Drug offences are not separately identifiable by nationality.

The illegal supply of drugs is a serious matter. Trafficking in controlled drugs of all classes needs to be tackled robustly in order to reduce the harm drugs cause to communities and organised criminality associated with their supply.

The Government's strategy is to bear down on all points in the drugs supply chain in order to disrupt criminal gangs, stifle drug supply and reduce the harm caused to communities in the UK. Increasing quantities of drugs are being seized and organised crime groups and dealers disrupted.

The latest figure published show that in 2008-09, there were a record 241,090 drug seizures by police and UK Border Agency (including HMRC) in England and Wales, up six per cent from the 228,131 seizures the previous year. These figures include 3,988 drug seizures made by Essex police in 2008-09, an increase of 45 per cent. on seizures made in 2007-08 (2,747).

Feltham

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Feltham and Heston constituency, the effects on the Department's policies since 1997. [316672]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has introduced a range of policies and initiatives since 1997. However, it is not always possible to quantify their effects particularly at constituency level. Feltham and Heston comes within the Hounslow Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. The available statistical information therefore relates to the London borough of Hounslow at either CDRP or Basic Command Unit level.

In terms of police recorded crime in the Hounslow CDRP, between 2002-03 and 2008-09, total recorded crime fell by 28 per cent. More specifically:

Violence against the person - down 22 per cent.

Sexual offences - down 30 per cent.

Robbery - down 27 per cent.

Burglary - down 23 per cent.

Offences against vehicles - down 45 per cent.

Other theft offences - down 24 per cent.

Criminal damage - down 42 per cent.

Drug offences - up 160 per cent [up 12 per cent. in last year] (there has been increased recording of drug offences which was mainly attributable to the increased use of police powers to issue cannabis warnings).

Data prior to 2002-03 is not directly comparable because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. Additionally, no data at borough level is available prior to 1998-99.

Hounslow BCU had 518 police officers as at 30 March 2009. The number of police officers has increased by 51 since 2003. Comparisons with 1997 for Hounslow BCU are not available. There were 98 Police Community Support Officers as at 30 March 2009 while there were none in existence in 1997.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 saw positive effects with the statutory duty to create a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). The CDRP has brought new ways of working in a cross-cutting way with the police, council and other key stakeholders and genuine partnership working to help tackle complex issues.

Along with the CDRP came the development of Safer Neighbourhood initiatives where there is now a dedicated police resource in each of the 20 wards of Hounslow which were not in place in 1997. Of the 20 Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) there are five in the Heston and Feltham wards, East, Central and West Heston and North and West Feltham. A more recent development is the Neighbourhood Community Safety Co-ordinators (NCSC). Part of the CDRPs pledge is to strengthen the work around community safety. This has included creating a new team of NCSCs, of which there are five: one covers Heston and Cranford and another covers Feltham. These co-ordinators are co-located at police stations throughout the borough. These officers will take a lead role in co-ordinating work around reducing crime, anti-social behaviour, alcohol and drugs by working with partners and residents in a designated area in the borough. (These officers have recently been recruited and Hounslow plans to launch the initiative in March.)

Before 1997 there were no bespoke powers to tackle anti-social behaviour but there are now a range of powers to deal with this issue. These include Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs), and Designated Public Places Orders (DPPOs) from the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.

Hounslow is working hard tackling areas where there are poor perceptions of ASB especially where "rubbish and litter is lying around" and "vandalism/graffiti" is concerned. Hounslow have done a lot of work in this area over the past year and are confident of having better results in the 2010 Place Survey.

Another of Hounslow's CDRP pledges is to "introduce CCTV to more parts of the borough". They are providing a strategic community safety CCTV control room and roll out CCTV cameras in ten key sites across the borough.

The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at Parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk./

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Trafficking will next meet; and whether it plans to discuss the evaluation of its work on anti-trafficking responses in the UK. [318971]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* The next meeting of the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Trafficking is scheduled for 14 April 2010.

The group routinely discusses work on anti-trafficking activities as part of its strategic oversight of the cross-Government UK Action Plan.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration officers have been stationed at postal hubs or depots in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [318703]

Alan Johnson: With the formation of the UK Border Agency (UKBA) in April 2008, responsibility for staffing postal hubs and depots transferred from HM Revenue and Customs, to the UK Border Force.

The United Kingdom's postal hubs and depots are located within the Central Border Force Region. It is Government policy to publish UKBA management information at a regional level, as location-specific information could provide value to those seeking to circumvent our controls.

Immigrants

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of *(a)* entering the UK in breach of a deportation order or without leave, *(b)* remaining in the UK after leave to enter or remain had expired, *(c)* assaulting an immigration officer and *(d)* trafficking people for exploitation in each year since 1998; and how many offenders in each category received the maximum available prison sentence or fine in each year. [318699]

Alan Johnson: The information requested is not recorded by the UK Border Agency. The Ministry of Justice is responsible for data regarding convictions which result from cases brought on behalf of the Home Office.

Immigration: Detention Centres

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been detained in immigration removal centres having been granted leave to remain in UK for a given period, broken down by *(a)* sex, *(b)* age and *(c)* length of detention (i) prior to and (ii) following case determination. [318500]

Alan Johnson: The information requested is not available and could be provided only by examining individual records at disproportionate cost.

Information on people detained in immigration removal centres is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

The latest information up to 31 December 2009 was published on 25 February 2010.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 7 December 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. R. A. Ansari. [315017]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 10 February 2010.

Police

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* cautions, *(b)* on-the-spot fines and *(c)* formal warnings were issued by each police force in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [314004]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of cautions, penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued in each police force area in England and Wales is shown in Table 1 and Table 2, respectively. Data on cautions and PNDs are currently available to 31 December 2008 and are compiled by calendar year. Data provided by Ministry of Justice.

Cautions and court proceedings data for 2009 are expected to be published in the autumn, 2010.

The only formal warning statistics that are collected centrally are cannabis warnings. Police forces have been able to issue a formal warning for possession of cannabis, known as a cannabis warning, since 1 April 2004. Statistics on cannabis warnings for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in table 3.

Data provided by the Home Office.

Table 1: Number of cautions[1] [2] issued for all offences in England and Wales, by police force area 2007 and 2008

Police force area	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	10,807	10,045
Bedfordshire	3,293	3,214
Cambridgeshire	4,437	4,287
Cheshire	4,812	4,799
City of London	802	589
Cleveland	5,397	5,604
Cumbria	3,402	2,980
Derbyshire	5,786	5,074
Devon and Cornwall	10,209	9,321
Dorset	3,850	3,686
Durham	4,025	3,793
Essex	14,369	10,499
Gloucestershire	3,501	3,744
Greater Manchester	13,123	11,404
Hampshire	9,185	7,437
Hertfordshire	6,526	6,490
Humberside	5,982	5,252
Kent	12,057	10,627
Lancashire	12,573	10,797
Leicestershire	5,589	4,480
Lincolnshire	4,067	4,326
Merseyside	6,464	7,077
Metropolitan Police	48,904	50,021
Norfolk	3,838	3,901
North Yorkshire	3,616	3,289
Northamptonshire	4,778	4,132
Northumbria	15,897	[illegible]
Nottinghamshire	8,910	6,790
South Yorkshire	11,635	9,441
Staffordshire	8,731	4,923
Suffolk	4,311	4,093
Surrey	5,652	4,157
Sussex	11,518	8,495
Thames Valley	13,543	12,420
Warwickshire	3,838	3,225
West Mercia	7,793	7,092
West Midlands	21,582	20,968
West Yorkshire	17,753	12,833
Wiltshire	2,341	2,921
England	344,896	308,865
Dyfed-Powys	4,437	3,865
Gwent	5,735	4,651
North Wales	2,239	3,604
South Wales	5,588	5,909
Wales	17,999	18,029
England and Wales	362,895	326,894

Table 1: Number of cautions[1] [2] issued for all offences in England and Wales, by police force area 2007 and 2008

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[2] These cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When an offender has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to offenders of all ages, by police force area, all offences, 2004[1]-08 England and Wales

Police force area	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	2,950	3,145
Bedfordshire	1,336	1,340
British Transport police	4,867	4,479
Cambridgeshire	2,249	2,065
Cheshire	2,206	2,012
City of London	415	217
Cleveland	3,803	3,468
Cumbria	1,650	1,099
Derbyshire	2,730	2,380
Devon and Cornwall	5,703	3,277
Dorset	1,798	1,309
Durham	1,839	1,786
Essex	4,402	3,713
Gloucestershire	2,330	918
Greater Manchester	9,896	8,499
Hampshire	6,005	3,854
Hertfordshire	4,428	3,326
Humberside	8,339	6,414
Kent	7,960	8,403
Lancashire	12,856	10,595
Leicestershire	2,519	2,123
Lincolnshire	1,758	1,284
Merseyside	9,270	10,573
Metropolitan	24,655	24,678
Norfolk	1,560	2,038
North Yorkshire	3,715	2,285
Northamptonshire	2,377	1,517
Northumbria	7,542	7,615
Nottinghamshire	2,551	2,035
South Yorkshire	7,983	7,403
Staffordshire	2,967	2,526
Suffolk	1,879	1,850
Surrey	3,786	2,186
Sussex	5,091	3,339
Thames Valley	8,538	7,859
Warwickshire	897	824
West Mercia	2,914	2,568
West Midlands	7,860	6,053
West Yorkshire	6,002	3,393
Wiltshire	1,203	1,958

ible 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to offenders of ages, by police force area, all offences, 2004[1]-08 England and Wales

lice force area	2007	2008
gland	192,829	166,406
fed Powys	995	996
vent	1,861	1,978
orth Wales	5,907	3,892
uth Wales	5,952	2,892
ales	14,715	9,758
gland and Wales	207,544	176,164

irst year of PND scheme. Fully rolled out to all forces on 1 April 04.

ote:

e British Transport police started issuing PNDs on 1 March 2006

Table 1: Number of cannabis warnings recorded as method of detection for possession of cannabis offences, by police force area in England and Wales, 2007-08–2008-09

lice force ea	2007-08	2008-09[1]
on and omerset	2,554	2,598
edfordshire	289	347
ritish ransport olice	1,707	3,214
ambridgeshire	1,594	1,257
heshire	757	1,109
leveland	686	851
umbria	218	272
erbyshire	520	600
evon and ornwall	1,380	1,571
orset	393	349
urham	256	333
yfed-Powys	882	794
ssex	1,348	1,597
loucestershire	459	529
reater lanchester	5,311	5,136
went	757	998
lampshire	2,260	1,943
lertfordshire	1,485	1,897
lumberside	895	991
ent	846	1,276
ancashire	528	791
eicestershire	1,967	1,701
incolnshire	508	491
ondon, City f	436	506
lerseyside	7,229	8,114
letropolitan olice	46,979	47,204
lorfolk	786	751
lorthamptonshire	311	439
lorthumbria	916	1,459
lorth Wales	985	1,059
lorth orkshire	701	665
lottinghamshire	1,210	950
outh Wales	2,414	2,220
outh orkshire	1,296	1,627
taffordshire	1,150	1,153
Suffolk	599	744
Surrey	993	811
Sussex	2,447	1,369
Thames Valley	2,753	2,518
Warwickshire	399	342
West Mercia	756	872
West Midlands	2,286	2,229
West Yorkshire	1,340	1,245
Wiltshire	218	329
England and Wales	103,804	107,251

[1] Since 26 January 2009, penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) can be given for cannabis possession. Up to the end of March 2009 such PNDs were counted together with cannabis warnings.

Police: Information and Communications Technology

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the number of hand held ICT devices used by police officers to receive information from and transmit information to police stations. [319597]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* The total number of hand held ICT devices in use by frontline police officers as at 26 February 2010 is 42,824.

Police: Manpower

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make it his policy to increase the number of frontline police officers in England and Wales in the next five years. [318709]

Alan Johnson: The Government's priority is to protect the frontline and maintain a focus on increasing public confidence in the police service and achieving improvements in value for money. To support this the Government made clear in the pre-Budget report last December that it will provide sufficient funding in the next comprehensive spending review to enable police authorities to maintain current numbers of police officers, police community support officers and other staff exercising police powers in the years to 2012-13.

The decision on the number and mix of frontline officers and other staff that will best serve the public is an operational matter for individual chief constables and police authorities to determine.

Police: Pay

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* median and *(b)* mean salary of a police constable in each police force was in (i) cash and (ii) real terms in each year since 1997. [319339]

Mr. Hanson: This information is not held centrally.

Prisoners: Deportation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners were removed from the UK in each of the past 10 years. [318701]

Alan Johnson: The information requested in respect of foreign nationals removed from the UK prior to 2007 is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Published figures for the UK Border Agency show that around 15,000 foreign nationals were removed or deported over the last three years.

This information is taken from Internal Management Information and is subject to change.

Sandwell

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to the borough of Sandwell, the effects on that borough of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [316471]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has introduced a range of policies and initiatives since 2000. However, it is not always possible to quantify their effects particularly at constituency level. The available statistical information therefore relates to the Sandwell Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area.

In terms of police recorded crime in Sandwell, between 2002-03 and 2008-09, total recorded crime fell by 41 per cent. More specifically:

Violence against the person—down 20 per cent.

Sexual offences—down 32 per cent.

Robbery—down 23 per cent.

Burglary—down 52 per cent.

Offences against vehicles—down 54 per cent.

Other theft offences—down 31 per cent.

Criminal damage—down 31 per cent.

Drug offences—up 37 per cent. (there has been increased recording of drug offences which was mainly attributable to the increased use of police powers to issue cannabis warnings).

Data prior to 2002-03 are not directly comparable because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002.

Sandwell comes within the West Midlands K1 and K2 Basic Command Units, which had 717 police officers as at 30 March 2009. The number of police officers has increased by 32 since 2003. Comparisons with 1997 for West Midlands K1 and K2 BCUs are not available. There were 78 police community support officers as at 30 March 2009 while there were none in existence in 1997.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 saw positive effects with the statutory duty to create a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). The CDRP has enabled new ways of working in a cross cutting way with the police, council and other key stakeholders to help tackle complex issues.

The Sandwell CDRP is well established and continues with good results in terms of tackling antisocial behaviour (ASB) and reducing crime and disorder.

Before 1997 there were no bespoke powers to tackle antisocial behaviour but there are now a range of powers to deal with this issue. These include antisocial behaviour orders and designated public places orders (DPPO) from the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 and as a result of their good work, Sandwell has been designated as an ASB Pioneer Area. The CDRP has also been instrumental in setting up an ASB Helpline in the borough; to date this has received 31,598 calls.

In 2008, the UK's first 'no rogue trader' zone was set up Sandwell, this is a borough-wide initiative between the police and trading standards to raise awareness of rogue trader tricks and encourage residents to report all suspicious activity.

Through the CDRP an award winning domestic violence partnership (Sandwell Organisation Against Domestic Abuse) was set up in 2006 which had received 12,017 referrals in total up to March 2009.

The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 Census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/

Telephone Tapping: Newspaper Press

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 701-02W, on telephone tapping, how many individuals have been warned by the Metropolitan Police Service about the possible illegal interception of their communications since July 2009; how many such individuals are in the *(a)* police, *(b)* military, *(c)* government and *(d)* royal category; and how many individuals were so contacted during the investigation which preceded the arrests of Clive Goodman and Glenn Mulcaire in August 2006. [319080]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* Further to my answer to the hon. Member on 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 702W, where information exists to suggest some form of interception of an individual's phone was or may have been attempted by Clive Goodman and Glenn Mulcaire, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has taken all necessary steps to ensure those individuals have been informed.

The MPS is committed to respecting and protecting the privacy of those who may have been subject to illegal interception of their communications. The MPS considers that breaking down the small number of individuals contacted would undermine this commitment.

United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff *(a)* have been and *(b)* are seconded to work in the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre from (i) the Police, (ii) the UK Border Agency, (iii) the Prison Service, (iv) the Serious and Organised Crime Agency, (v) HM Revenue and Customs/UK Border Force, (vi) non-governmental organisations, (vii) social services and (viii) each other organisation. [319836]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 1 March 2010]*: There have been 46 posts filled on secondment from the organisations listed above with 38 posts currently filled. The figures by agency are as shown in the table:

	Total secondment posts	*Currently seconded staff*
Police civilian staff	25	23
Police officers	5	
UKBA	5	3
SOCA	5	4
HMRC/UKBF	1	1
NGOs	3	1
Social Services	1	0
Other organisations (Crown Prosecution Service)	1	1

[1] There are no staff seconded from the Prison Service.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

British Nuclear Fuels: Pay

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the salary was of the Chief Executive of British Nuclear Fuels plc in 2009. [319811]

Mr. Kidney: In 2009, the salary of the Chief Executive of British Nuclear Fuels Ltd was £447,185.In addition he received £44,718 to be used at his own discretion to fund pension contributions.

Climatic Research Unit

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding his Department has provided to the University of East Anglia's Climatic Research Unit in each of the last five years. [319423]

Joan Ruddock: Since the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was formed in October 2008, it has not provided any funding to the Climatic Research Unit at the University of East Anglia.

Departmental Thefts

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many thefts from his Department have been recorded since its inception. [318988]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has recorded three thefts since its inception.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what support the *(a)* Energy Savings Trust and *(b)* Carbon Trust has provided to the residents of Stroud constituency in each year since 2004. [318978]

Joan Ruddock: The Energy Saving Trust (EST) is currently overseeing the Pay as You Save (PAYS) trials for DECC in which Stroud district council is participating.

EST's services are available to all UK citizens. These include a free telephone advice service (the Act on CO_2 Advice Line in England) which offers callers advice on energy saving behaviour, how to make our homes more energy efficient, energy efficient products, low carbon energy, sustainable travel, efficient use of water, and waste minimisation. Advice and self-help tools are also available through EST's web advice services.

The Carbon Trust (CT) provides specialist support to business and the public sector to help cut carbon emissions, save energy and commercialise low carbon technologies.

It is not possible to provide a funding breakdown at a constituency level for EST and CT support.

Environment Protection: Employment

Mr. Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of the 1.2 million green jobs the Government plans to create by 2020 which are likely to be in Scotland. [318615]

Joan Ruddock: The figure of 1.2 million green jobs in the UK is an estimate of the potential growth in employment by 2014-15 based on an analysis of the Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services (LCEGS) sector (Innovas, March 2009, "Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services: An Industry Analysis").

While the Innovas study calculates that there were 73,000 people in the LCEGS sector in Scotland in 2007-08, it does not provide estimates of employment numbers at a country level in 2014-15.

Feed-in Tariffs

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department holds information for benchmarking purposes on feed-in-tariff schemes on other EU member states. [319547]

Joan Ruddock: The 'Report on Qualitative Issues in the Design of the GB Feed in Tariffs', prepared for the Department by Element Energy and Poyry Energy Consulting, contains that information and can be found on the DECC website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx

Natural Gas :Storage

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will review Lancashire County Council's recent decision to refuse planning permission for additional gas storage capacity in that area. [310933]

Mr. Kidney: Lancashire county council refused planning permission for the Canatxx gas storage project at Preesall on 27 January 2010. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change cannot review the case. The applicant may ask my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for a determination on appeal.

Nuclear Power Stations

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the merits of pebble-bed technology in the design of new nuclear reactors. [318260]

Mr. Kidney: In line with the reactor designs currently being assessed by the regulators through the generic design assessment (GDA) process, any new nuclear reactors built over the next 10-15 years will be generation III designs. These designs are already available commercially. The pebble-bed reactor is a generation IV-plus design that is not yet available commercially and has not been considered as part of the GDA process.

Warm Front Scheme

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many complaints *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Eaga have received in relation to (i) the installation and (ii) failure of boilers installed under the Warm Front scheme in each of the last five years. [316429]

Mr. Kidney: The level of information requested in relation to complaints received by the Department is available for the period August to November 2009. During that time 421 expressions of dissatisfaction were received about a range of issues, of these, 80 cases relate to the quality of installation. The Department does not categorise complaints about boiler failure caused by manufacturing faults.

The following table shows the number of complaints received by eaga with regard to (i) boiler installation and (ii) boiler or system failure in each year under the present phase of the scheme (since 2005). The number of upheld complaints (complaints where a clear service failure has been identified) is shown alongside these figures.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]	*Total*
Complaints -Installation	382	975	1,220	1,800	1,429	5,806
Upheld	29	78	47	185	174	513
Complaints -Boiler/System failure	232	665	994	998	739	3,628
Upheld	92	269	303	267	203	1,134

[1] Data run to 4 February 2010

WALES

Future Jobs Fund: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which companies in Wales have made successful applications to the Future Jobs Fund; how many jobs have been created in respect of each application; when the jobs enabled by each application were advertised; and how many such vacancies have been filled. [318135]

Mr. Hain: The following organisations were successful in bidding for Future Jobs Fund money in Wales, with the number of jobs expected to be created in brackets:

Groundwork (240 jobs);

Rhyl City Strategy (322 jobs);

Cardiff City Council (289 jobs);

Hyfforddiant Ceredigion Training (100 jobs);

Pembrokeshire County Council (170 jobs);

Vale of Glamorgan Council (96 jobs);

Powys Partnership Future Jobs Fund (63 jobs);

City of Swansea's Employability Training (1,320 jobs);

Swansea Council for Voluntary Service (75 jobs);

WCVA (2,500 jobs);

Merthyr Tydfil Council (3,519 jobs);

Interlink (120 jobs);

Carmarthenshire County Council (291 jobs);

Neath Port Talbot County Council (288 jobs);

Newport Future Jobs Fund Partnership (472 jobs);

Coalfields Regeneration Trust (80 jobs).

These bids will bring a total of 9,945 jobs to Wales over the next 18 months.

Advertisement and recruitment into these positions is an ongoing process. Statistics for the number of starts are not yet available but are being collated by the Department for Work and Pensions.

JUSTICE

Departmental Energy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department plans to take to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. [319097]

Mr. Wills: Throughout the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), as part of our continuing efforts to reduce energy consumption, staff are regularly reminded to turn off computers, monitors and other electrical equipment, unplug mobile phone chargers and switch off lights when rooms are not in use. As the 2010 Earth Hour event is on Saturday 27 March, many of our buildings will be unoccupied. The MoJ HQ estate will participate through contractors turning off any lighting not required and ensuring meeting room co-ordinators check video link screens and televisions are not left on standby.

The MoJ will publicise the Earth Hour event to staff through the staff Intranet.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many thefts from his Department have been recorded in the last two years. [318996]

Mr. Wills: The Department records theft and other losses, but does not separately distinguish between the two for reporting purposes. The centrally recorded thefts and losses during the last two financial years for the Department and its predecessor, the Department for Constitutional Affairs (created in May 2007), including its agencies and other offices, are:

	Number
07-08	116
08-09	203

The number of such cases involving theft could be ovided only at disproportionate cost. This detail is corded in individual incident records held locally by e Department's various agencies and other business eas. The increase in the number of incidents is believed be due to the increased awareness of the requirement r reporting, arising from the Data Handling Review.

Ex-Servicemen: Prison

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice hether people *(a)* whose date of birth was navailable, *(b)* sent to prison before 1979 and *(c)* who d been reservists counted for the purposes of his epartment's determination of the number of veterans jails in England and Wales. [319840]

Maria Eagle: The methodology used by Defence nalytical Services and Advice (DASA) to estimate the oportion of armed forces veterans in prison was blished on the DASA website:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/
lex.php?page=48&pubType=3&thiscontent=540&PublishTime
6:00:00&date=2010-01-25&disText=Single
20Report&from=listing&topDate=2010-01-25

n 25 January 2010.

The report describes in some length and detail who is contained in databases held by the Ministry of efence (MOD) and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the riables used in the matching process and the advantages d disadvantages of the approach taken.

As date of birth was a required variable only those cords that contained a date of birth were used. This nounted to around 81,000 valid records from the ison database and around 1.3 million valid records om the MOD database.

The date of the prison population extract taken to form the matching work was 6 November 2009. If a rson sent to prison before 1979 was still in prison on is date then their record would have been used in the atching process.

Reservists were not included in the matching process.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice) whether people *(a)* whose first name was navailable, *(b)* under the age of 18 years, *(c)* who had anged their names on marriage and *(d)* known to e aliases were counted for the purposes of his epartment's determination of the number of service terans in prison; [319555]

(2) what the prison population was when his epartment made its determination of the number of rvice veterans in the prison system; [319556]

(3) what his most recent estimate is of the number of rvice veterans in HM Prison *(a)* Manchester, *(b)* urham and *(c)* Everthorpe; [319557]

(4) what his most recent estimate is of the number of rvice veterans under the supervision of the probation rvice on *(a)* court orders and *(b)* parole. [319558]

Maria Eagle: The methodology used by Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) to estimate the proportion of Armed Forces veterans in prison was published on the DASA website

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/
index.php?page=48&pubType=3&thiscontent=540&Publish
Time=16:00:00&date=2010-01-25&disText=Single
%20Report&from=listing&topDate=2010-01-25

on 25 January 2010.

The report describes in some length and detail who was contained in databases held by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the variables used in the matching process and the advantages and disadvantages of the approach taken.

The date of the prison population extract taken to inform this work was 6 November 2009. The total number of people in prison in England and Wales was 84,522. However, as only sentenced and remand prisoners aged 18 and over were matched, the denominator used was 81,071. Non criminal prisoners and those aged under 18 were excluded from the matching process.

No estimate of veterans in individual prisons has been made because this was outside the scope of the project.

The MoD and MoJ are currently working to estimate the proportion of armed forces veterans under the supervision of the Probation Service. Results will be published when complete.

Freedom of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 apply to documents relating to the administrative duties conducted on behalf of HM Courts Service by *(a)* the Lord Chief Justice, *(b)* the Master of the Rolls and *(c)* other judges; [319050]

(2) whether his Department accepts legal responsibility for the custody and control of documents relating to the administrative duties conducted on behalf of HM Courts Service by *(a)* the Lord Chief Justice, *(b)* the Master of the Rolls and *(c)* other judges. [319051]

Mr. Wills: Members of the judiciary do not carry out administrative duties on behalf of HM Court Service. There are accordingly no documents relating to such duties.

The Department does hold some information created by the judiciary in the course of discharging their judicial functions, and there may be occasions when the judiciary hold information on behalf of the Department. The Department's legal obligations in respect of such information under the Data Protection Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Public Records Act 1958 will depend on the facts of any given case.

Juries

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people summoned for jury service in Milton Keynes declined to carry out their service for each reason in each year since 1997; [319004]

(2) how many people *(a)* were summoned for and *(b)* undertook jury service in Milton Keynes in each year since 1997. [319005]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows, on a national level basis for each calendar year from 2000 to 2008, the following:

(a) how many people have been required for jury service

(b) how many people have been supplied to the court for jury service

(c) how many people have been deferred from the original date they were summoned for jury service

(d) how many people have been excused from jury service

(e) how many people have been disqualified from jury service.

The Jury Central Summoning Bureau (JCSB) is not able to supply the information for Milton Keynes as the data cannot be extracted in this way by the computer system.

Data are organised under postal catchment areas to different Crown courts. Therefore residents from Milton Keynes could be summoned to either Aylesbury or Luton Crown court, which also covers other postal areas.

Members of the public summoned for jury service cannot decline to carry out jury service. However, a juror can apply to defer their jury service to a more suitable date within the forthcoming 12-month period if the original date is not convenient. Jurors can apply to be excused from jury service but their application must show good cause why they should be excused from attending.

	Calendar year end								
	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Total number of summons issues	79,115	579,473	492,561	461,980	431,432	388,154	380,671	412,666	416,609
Total number of jurors supplied to the court	24,907	187,080	197,599	164,831	167,114	185,193	181,866	182,061	183,506
Deferred to serve at a later date	8,660	61,435	59,786	59,528	65,754	63,741	61,254	66,174	66,806
Number refused deferral	22	214	297	340	288	286	172	122	103
Excused									
By right having served in past two years	4,700	32,360	29,120	20,247	14,887	4,333	4,377	4,518	4,244
child care	3,410	27,665	26,281	24,327	19,497	15,741	15,690	16,118	15,711
work commitments	2,781	26,640	25,620	19,373	14,961	14,419	15,998	16,428	16,857
medical	5,650	44,435	40,982	35,061	34,016	32,250	30,332	32,416	31,280
travel difficulties	186	2,394	1,811	1,110	813	672	720	651	690
student	736	5,468	5,099	3,070	2,435	2,150	2,260	2,273	2,420
moved from area	1,549	11,073	6,254	3,419	2,496	2,181	2,434	2,968	2,543
Language difficulties	849	5,921	5,928	5,260	4,075	4,081	4,030	4,496	4,165
other	2,521	20,678	22,354	22,400	23,103	21,856	24,126	27,784	30,606
All excused	22,382	176,662	164,257	143,176	117,168	97,474	99,836	107,582	108,534
Number refused excusal	421	2,494	1,927	3,453	4,340	3,505	2,053	1,641	1,515
Disqualified—residency, mental disorders, criminality	15,248	116,330	105,314	98,045	89,112	77,364	85,061	94,171	96,325
Disqualified—on selection	5,989	46,271	59,892	58,830	55,410	49,765	53,031	58,900	59,017
Disqualified—failed Police National Computer (PNC) check	0	69	160	136	148	193	185	207	225

Juries: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people resident in the London Borough of Bexley *(a)* were summoned for and *(b)* undertook jury service in each year since 1997. [319470]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows, on a national level basis for each calendar year from 2000 to 2008, the following:

(a) how many people have been required for jury service;

(b) how many people have been supplied to the court for jury service;

(c) how many people have been deferred from the original date they were summoned for jury service;

(d) how many people have been excused from jury service;

(e) how many people have been disqualified from jury service.

Information for each London borough is not held centrally as the information cannot be extracted in this way by the computer system. Residents from the London borough of Bexley could be summoned to one of five different court locations which also cover other postal areas.

	Calendar year end								
	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Total number of summons issues	79,115	579,473	492,561	461,980	431,432	388,154	380,671	412,666	416,609
Total number of jurors supplied to the court	24,907	187,080	197,599	164,831	167,114	185,193	181,866	182,061	183,506
Deferred to serve at a later date	8,660	61,435	59,786	59,528	65,754	63,741	61,254	66,174	66,806

Number refused d

Excused—by right
years
Excused—child ca
Excused—work co
Excused—medical
Excused—travel d
Excused—student
Excused—moved f
Excused—languag
Excused—other
All excused
Number refused e

Disqualified—resi
criminality
Disqualified—on s
Disqualified—fail
Computer (PNC) c

Ms Buck:
how many l

Procurement area
Barking and Dage
Barnet
Barnsley
Bedfordshire
Berkshire
Bexley
Birmingham
Bolton
Bournemouth and
Bradford
Brent
Bridgend, Cardiff
Bromley
Buckinghamshire
Bury
Calderdale
Cambridgeshire
Camden
Central Wales
Cheshire
City of Bristol, S
Gloucestershire a
Somerset
City of Derby
City of Kingston
City of Leicester
City of Plymouth
City of Stoke-on
City of Westmins
City of Wolverha

	Calendar year end								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
ral	22	214	297	340	298	286	172	122	103
sing served in past two	4,709	32,368	29,420	28,247	14,887	4,333	4,277	4,518	4,244
	3,410	27,685	26,291	24,327	19,497	15,741	15,690	16,118	15,711
ointments	2,761	26,640	25,628	19,373	14,961	14,419	15,998	16,428	16,857
	5,650	44,435	40,982	35,061	34,016	32,239	30,332	32,416	31,289
culties	186	2,394	1,811	1,110	813	672	720	651	690
	736	5,468	3,899	3,979	2,438	2,150	2,298	2,273	2,429
n area	1,549	11,073	6,254	3,419	2,498	2,181	2,454	2,988	2,543
ifficulties	849	5,921	5,928	5,260	4,975	4,081	4,030	4,406	4,165
	2,521	20,678	22,354	22,400	23,103	21,656	24,126	27,784	30,606
	22,382	176,662	164,257	143,176	117,188	97,474	99,836	107,582	108,534
ual	421	2,494	1,927	3,453	4,344	3,585	2,053	1,641	1,515
cy, mental disorders,	15,248	118,139	105,314	98,045	88,112	77,364	85,061	94,171	96,325
ction	5,989	48,271	59,892	58,830	55,410	49,765	53,031	58,900	59,017
Police National ck	0	69	160	139	148	193	185	207	225

Legal Aid

o ask the Secretary of State for Justice al aid *(a)* matter starts and *(b)* claims registered there were in each of the smallest data areas in each year since 2005-06. [318764]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Legal help cases started and claims made 2005-06 to 2008-09

	Year							
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Case starts	Volume of claims received	Case starts	Volume of claims received	Case starts	Volume of claims received	Case starts	Volume of claims received
am	2,427	2,297	2,364	2,382	2,061	1,853	2,543	2,275
	2,949	3,935	2,382	3,126	2,475	2,773	3,736	3,113
	2,208	2,252	2,425	2,494	1,993	2,722	2,523	2,405
	5,535	5,392	6,239	5,727	5,980	5,133	5,460	5,309
	6,750	5,949	6,348	5,926	4,891	4,791	5,644	4,993
	1,205	1,377	882	1,141	951	1,208	1,415	1,459
	23,968	25,220	23,600	24,379	23,988	22,812	26,069	26,698
	2,566	2,614	3,863	3,642	4,112	4,012	4,229	4,022
ode	3,143	3,598	3,130	3,350	2,440	2,580	3,590	3,193
	8,110	8,682	7,055	7,315	7,089	6,771	7,112	7,011
	9,726	13,685	9,438	14,027	8,869	12,091	9,317	10,602
d the Vale	12,277	11,612	13,087	13,373	13,364	12,274	13,589	12,768
	1,727	1,603	1,787	1,894	1,734	1,554	1,527	1,378
	5,183	5,179	5,139	5,525	5,209	5,026	5,472	5,830
	1,650	1,542	1,952	1,911	1,855	1,830	2,333	2,169
	1,618	1,628	1,694	1,591	1,747	1,662	2,394	2,146
	7,921	7,686	8,402	8,210	8,806	8,964	10,095	9,487
	12,665	13,556	11,998	12,692	11,840	12,946	13,134	13,030
	2,292	2,077	2,223	2,237	2,041	1,754	2,222	2,181
	5,776	5,349	6,743	6,290	6,506	6,479	7,311	6,693
h	12,094	12,096	12,795	13,016	12,125	12,801	12,782	12,216
North								
	4,968	4,187	4,436	4,369	4,424	4,675	2,928	2,962
on Hull	4,889	4,645	4,653	4,808	3,926	4,318	3,703	3,831
	5,007	6,339	4,592	4,687	5,112	5,105	4,552	3,982
	4,761	4,526	4,823	4,862	4,082	4,470	4,809	4,716
on	4,496	4,714	4,144	4,761	4,025	4,383	4,754	4,495
	4,934	3,129	3,346	5,081	4,845	5,106	3,290	4,346
ton	4,392	4,109	4,438	4,482	4,649	4,257	5,035	4,856

Legal help cases started and claims made 2005-06 to 2008-09

	Year							
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
Procurement area	*Case starts*	*Volume of claims received*	*Case starts*	*Volume of claims received*	*Case starts*	*Volume of claims received*	*Case starts*	*Volume of claims received*
Cornwall	7,786	6,615	6,891	6,661	6,845	7,068	7,099	6,906
Coventry	4,901	5,470	4,673	6,021	4,213	3,664	4,271	3,755
Croydon	3,255	3,347	3,546	3,922	3,129	3,381	4,223	3,698
Cumbria	7,119	5,762	7,617	6,808	6,761	6,870	6,997	6,889
Darlington	1,728	1,682	2,006	1,951	1,880	1,897	1,795	2,082
Devon	9,459	9,440	9,774	9,325	8,663	9,016	9,791	9,312
Doncaster	4,368	4,037	6,006	5,707	5,556	5,975	6,064	6,311
Dorset	2,723	2,545	2,866	2,724	2,639	2,834	2,829	2,639
Dudley	2,881	3,140	2,592	2,691	2,182	2,211	2,486	2,402
Durham	6,469	5,893	6,674	6,546	6,543	6,485	7,043	6,537
Ealing	8,640	13,057	14,527	13,939	11,736	13,058	13,599	13,207
East Essex	8,053	6,525	7,735	7,442	8,000	7,252	7,588	7,103
East Lancashire	8,699	8,804	9,225	9,245	7,911	7,820	8,058	7,586
East Riding of Yorkshire	942	927	945	900	1,024	874	920	854
East Sussex	5,182	5,272	5,458	5,134	5,619	5,450	6,575	6,149
Enfield	3,393	3,531	3,055	3,563	2,859	2,956	2,525	2,432
Gateshead	3,925	4,758	4,640	6,779	3,802	4,839	3,695	4,663
Gloucestershire	4,471	4,967	5,253	4,615	4,687	5,450	5,610	5,359
Greater Nottingham	11,098	11,256	11,147	10,687	11,115	10,250	10,860	11,169
Greenwich	2,302	2,941	2,461	2,158	2,209	2,111	2,503	2,171
Hackney and City of London	16,158	20,821	14,707	17,408	15,610	17,044	16,370	17,963
Hammersmith and Fulham	5,525	7,012	5,401	6,939	3,664	6,318	3,760	5,235
Hampshire	6,418	6,569	6,274	6,385	5,810	6,120	6,736	6,435
Haringey	7,055	10,524	6,901	9,901	5,944	7,329	8,141	7,735
Harrow	3,351	5,012	3,443	3,486	4,537	4,287	6,288	5,301
Hartlepool	2,173	2,725	2,173	2,287	2,212	2,197	2,508	2,337
Havering	944	1,034	1,295	1,167	1,138	1,307	1,928	1,575
Herefordshire and Worcestershire	5,488	5,441	5,597	5,573	5,165	5,450	6,019	5,784
Hillingdon	652	785	856	1,059	1,312	1,509	2,111	1,760
Hounslow	2,219	2,657	1,128	1,098	1,425	1,112	1,302	1,329
Islington	8,680	10,613	9,140	9,807	7,923	8,559	7,443	8,316
Kensington and Chelsea	4,954	4,577	4,514	5,119	4,064	5,158	5,422	5,545
Kingston upon Thames and Richmond upon Thames	1,166	1,084	1,382	1,403	1,784	1,485	1,872	1,604
Kirklees	5,767	5,373	5,554	5,299	5,695	5,712	5,916	5,805
Knowsley	3,000	2,812	3,043	2,777	2,948	3,174	2,400	2,731
Lambeth	7,203	7,319	7,258	7,528	5,747	5,881	6,307	6,156
Leeds	9,418	10,024	9,925	10,356	11,872	9,805	14,286	14,966
Leicestershire and Rutland	2,888	2,805	3,282	3,358	3,375	3,563	3,732	4,192
Lewisham	2,795	2,569	2,541	3,134	1,567	1,636	2,073	1,949
Lincolnshire	8,324	8,069	8,388	8,581	8,279	7,750	7,902	7,824
Liverpool	17,380	17,642	19,526	18,197	19,505	19,383	19,481	19,820
Manchester	10,534	11,940	10,695	10,778	10,718	9,820	12,043	11,674
Merton and Sutton	1,903	1,271	2,398	2,402	3,084	2,787	2,721	2,889
Mid and South West Kent	3,284	3,191	3,979	3,400	3,726	3,366	5,158	4,419
Middlesbrough	4,200	4,904	4,337	4,516	3,617	3,898	3,719	4,176
Neath Port Talbot and Swansea	9,346	9,063	9,870	8,967	9,488	8,677	10,849	10,044
Newcastle upon Tyne	6,976	7,386	7,853	7,781	7,230	7,295	7,714	7,871
Newham	11,319	13,579	12,387	12,333	11,926	10,756	11,322	10,676
Norfolk	9,091	9,267	10,353	8,899	10,341	9,317	12,984	11,639
North Derbyshire	3,436	3,552	3,818	3,645	3,372	3,336	3,664	3,582
North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire	5,100	4,524	4,600	4,872	4,281	4,579	4,931	4,512
North East Wales	6,353	6,380	5,266	5,180	5,757	4,996	5,636	5,228
North Hertfordshire	2,321	2,512	2,340	2,348	2,553	2,488	3,324	3,000
North Kent and Medway	4,554	4,482	4,668	4,622	4,864	4,673	6,230	5,627
North Nottinghamshire	6,318	6,758	6,030	6,060	6,444	6,365	6,996	6,058
North Tyneside	4,616	4,516	4,669	4,557	4,524	4,073	4,917	4,516
North West Wales	3,176	2,803	3,157	2,928	2,943	2,664	3,241	2,959
North Yorkshire	5,052	4,721	5,687	5,213	5,188	5,408	5,746	5,221

Legal help cases started and claims made 2005-06 to 2008-09

	Year							
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
urement area	Case starts	Volume of claims received	Case starts	Volume of claims received	Case starts	Volume of claims received	Case starts	Volume of claims received
hamptonshire	5,636	5,024	5,776	5,163	5,530	5,226	7,000	6,199
humberland	5,795	5,193	4,987	5,335	4,863	4,752	5,524	4,952
am	3,213	3,000	3,554	3,189	3,110	3,355	3,989	3,576
rdshire	5,417	5,318	5,144	5,500	6,317	5,420	6,890	6,744
smouth and Isle of Wight	5,566	5,209	5,262	5,461	4,641	4,970	4,047	4,180
bridge	2,045	3,164	2,315	2,377	1,748	1,551	2,317	1,988
car and Cleveland	2,926	2,772	2,952	3,007	3,104	2,848	2,909	2,777
ndda Cynon Taff and thyr Tydfil	4,146	4,071	4,101	4,108	4,799	4,333	4,764	4,504
dale	3,317	3,304	2,887	3,037	2,723	2,711	2,790	2,748
herham	3,005	3,453	3,224	3,792	3,725	3,462	3,968	3,700
ord	6,408	7,842	7,486	6,108	7,761	7,323	7,475	8,197
dwell	2,487	2,710	2,662	2,776	2,607	2,476	3,039	3,260
on	3,679	2,861	3,426	2,923	3,086	2,991	3,954	3,573
field	9,174	9,656	10,008	9,770	9,537	9,175	10,629	11,139
pshire	6,000	6,034	6,001	6,137	5,828	5,770	6,114	5,856
hull	998	900	1,072	1,038	921	945	1,290	1,268
erset	6,673	6,820	7,045	7,935	6,598	7,178	7,637	7,416
th Derbyshire	1,728	1,738	2,064	1,637	1,867	1,625	1,657	1,451
th East Wales	9,438	8,635	10,107	9,594	9,123	8,703	10,014	9,915
th Hertfordshire	2,935	5,713	2,364	4,845	1,966	1,925	3,061	2,413
th Tyneside	2,686	2,207	2,802	2,669	2,652	2,352	3,100	2,793
th West Wales	3,900	3,564	4,489	3,987	4,357	3,962	4,386	3,761
thampton	2,298	2,148	2,709	2,431	3,133	2,333	2,829	3,006
thwark	8,988	8,530	9,520	10,055	11,228	9,277	11,759	10,536
Helens	4,424	4,249	4,809	4,664	5,856	4,840	5,385	5,323
fordshire	5,427	5,029	5,848	5,581	5,750	5,915	5,492	5,379
kport	2,319	2,030	2,788	2,326	3,003	2,443	3,039	2,924
kton-on-Tees	3,641	3,820	3,951	3,979	3,647	3,754	4,252	4,073
olk	5,223	5,390	4,958	5,046	4,769	5,427	5,582	5,242
derland	5,757	5,571	6,306	5,524	5,484	5,272	5,756	5,505
rey	2,107	1,907	2,215	2,060	1,824	1,909	2,874	2,561
neside	2,206	2,185	2,272	2,406	2,034	1,613	1,982	1,919
City of Brighton and Hove	5,359	5,142	5,823	5,685	5,380	5,278	5,355	5,071
Kent Coast	5,818	6,326	6,616	6,134	6,006	6,409	7,814	7,286
er Hamlets	7,788	9,816	8,711	9,857	11,030	9,798	14,339	14,526
ford	1,083	1,077	1,996	1,460	1,932	1,753	2,914	2,677
kefield	4,100	4,202	4,348	4,287	3,948	3,728	3,809	3,587
sall	4,720	4,874	5,055	5,028	4,332	4,200	4,483	4,171
tham Forest	1,913	2,019	2,235	2,116	2,328	2,157	2,379	2,292
ndsworth	6,162	8,295	4,961	5,660	5,626	6,125	7,146	6,920
rrington and Halton	3,634	3,575	3,494	3,681	3,456	3,429	3,525	3,446
rwickshire	3,329	3,340	3,520	3,379	3,240	3,499	3,627	3,518
t Essex	6,581	7,016	7,397	7,570	7,565	7,831	8,575	8,393
t Lancashire	10,660	10,242	11,321	10,791	10,875	10,499	11,107	10,520
t Sussex	3,521	3,614	4,103	4,094	4,432	4,607	4,921	5,036
gan	4,290	4,500	4,263	4,261	4,452	4,318	5,151	4,631
tshire	4,903	5,457	5,540	5,631	5,549	5,513	7,152	6,752
ral	9,062	7,444	8,057	8,182	8,608	7,928	8,512	8,743
TALS	713,667	744,267	740,334	751,730	720,211	716,608	785,204	764,370

Probation: Wales

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice at the management structure will be of the l-Wales Probation Trust. [319839]

Maria Eagle: An interim management structure has en implemented in preparation for transition to trust atus, which is as follows. This is based on the proposed structure put forward in the application for trust status. The final structure would be a matter for the trust's board and its chief executive when appointed.

Trust Board

Chief Executive

Director for Interventions and Business; Development Director for Resources; Director for Local Delivery

10 Local Delivery Unit Heads.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Energy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government Equalities Office plans to take to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. [319104]

Michael Jabez Foster: GEO's offices are in a Communities and Local Government building and will be subject to any response CLG makes to Earth Hour.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many designs for its website the Government Equalities Office has commissioned since its inception. [318639]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office has commissioned two designs for its website since its inception in October 2007.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff in the *(a)* Government Equalities Office and *(b)* Equality and Human Rights Commission have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years. [316451][1]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office does not hold information on sickness absence from before October 2007. Since October 2008, no staff in the Government Equalities Office have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days.

Four staff in the Equality and Human Rights Commission have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years.

Public Meetings

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many public meetings the Government Equalities Office has held in each year since its inception. [319348]

Michael Jabez Foster: No annual figures are kept but since its establishment in October 2007, the GEO has held the following public meetings:

consultations on the Equality Bill (8);

Women in Focus events, which promoted the use of the gender equality duty and aimed to improved outcomes for women offenders (10);

events that form part of the campaign to promote public appointments (29);

the Black And Minority Ethnic Women Councillor's Taskforce events (16); and

roundtable events to discuss the National Equality Framework (5).

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what reports have been received of the names of the 27 civilians killed by NATO action in Uruzgan province on 21 February 2010; [319237]

(2) what reports have been received of the names of the five civilians killed by NATO action in Kandahar on 15 February 2010; [319238]

(3) what reports have been received of the names of the 12 civilians killed by NATO action in Marjah on 14 February 2010 during Operation Moshtarak. [319239]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The International Security Assistance Force, of which the UK are an integral part, is deeply saddened by any incident involving civilian deaths. However, these incidents occurred outside of the UK area of operations and no UK forces were involved. In light of this, and the ongoing investigations into the incidents, it would not be appropriate for me to comment further.

Armed Forces

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* Members of the House of Lords responded in writing to the inquiry into national recognition of the armed forces undertaken by the hon. Member for Grantham and Stamford. [318667]

Mr. Kevan Jones: All those who were officially consulted by the inquiry team into National Recognition of the Armed Forces are named in the final report, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. Given that all other contributions were provided voluntarily by individuals on the understanding that they would be treated in confidence, it would be inappropriate for the Government to release their names.

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost in 2009-10 to his Department of the changes to the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme announced on 10 February 2010. [318027]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 22 February 2010]*: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) accounts for the liabilities arising from the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme on an accruals basis, which means that the full life-time value of awards is set aside in the year in which the injury, illness or death occurred, even though payments may be made through the Guaranteed Income Payments over an individual's lifetime. Details of the existing liabilities can be found in the Armed Forces Pension Scheme resource accounts which are placed in the Library of the House.

The MOD has estimated that the additional liabilities arising from the changes proposed in the review would be between around £30 million and £40 million per annum. These liabilities would be met from within existing provision in the Defence budget.

The liabilities (or cost) in 2009-10 do not arise until the necessary legislative amendments to the scheme are actually in place. The accounts in the financial year in which the legislation is made will reflect the change in liabilities arising from the review.

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[1] *[Official Report, 15 March 2010, Vol. 507, c. 19-20MC.]*

Armed Forces: Leave

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many serving members of the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force have taken (i) maternity and (ii) paternity leave in the last 12 months. [319724]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of armed forces personnel who have taken either maternity or paternity leave, during the period 25 February 2009 until 24 February 2010, broken down by service is detailed in the following table:

Absence type	*Army*	*RAF*	*Navy*	*Grand total*
Maternity	760	500	280	1,540
Paternity	950	850	220	2,020

Note:
When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Due to the rounding the sum of the component parts may not equal the total.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of people *(a)* eligible and *(b)* likely to file cases for review under the revised arrangements for the Armed Forces Pension Compensation scheme. [319455]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 1 March 2010]*: All those personnel in receipt of an award under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (some 5,500 as at September 2009) will have their cases reviewed to ensure their awards reflect the recommendations made by Lord Boyce's review, which the Government have agreed to implement in full. There will therefore be no need for individuals to file their cases for review as the MOD will automatically conduct case reviews and contact all previous claimants to inform them of the increased benefits they will receive. We are committed to implementing the legislative changes arising from the review of the scheme within a year. Individual awards will be re-examined once the new legislation is in place. All new claimants under the scheme will, of course, benefit from the improvements being made in the same way.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* complaints and *(b)* requests for clarification on the taxation of war pensions his Department has received from former service personnel in the last two years. [319944]

Mr. Kevan Jones: War disablement pensions are not taxable and recipients of war disablement pensions are not affected by the recent issuing, by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, of incorrect tax code notices to recipients of attributable pensions under the Armed Forces Pension Scheme.

Information on the number of complaints and requests for clarification made to the Ministry of Defence on the tax code issue is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Training

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many graduates there were from Royal Air Force college Cranwell in each of the last 10 years; and how many of them are still employed within the RAF. [319243]

Bill Rammell: In 2005, the Initial Officer Training (IOT) course was restructured and a new data system was introduced. Retrieving data from pre-2006 would require a manual search of paper records and so this information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

The number of Officer graduates from the Royal Air Force College Cranwell, by year, were:

	Number
2006	282
2007	371
2008	574
2009	547

The figures for 2006 are incomplete as the data collection did not commence until July, with the first graduation of the restructured IOT course. The increased output between 2007 and 2008 is due to an increase in RAF recruitment to meet the increasing demand in manpower establishment.

The number of graduates still employed within the RAF is not held centrally and could only be provided by manual searches through the Joint Personnel Administration database at disproportionate cost.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many graduates there were from Commando Training Centre Royal Marines in each of the last 10 years; and how many of them are still employed within the Royal Marines. [319244]

Bill Rammell: The number of Royal Marines personnel to pass out of Commando Training Centre Royal Marines (CTCRM) in each of the last 10 years is as follows:

Commando Training Centre Royal Marines

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
RM officers	—	28	43	37	28	38	33	35	36	39
RM other ranks	500	566	602	663	612	458	568	569	557	574
AACC[1]	—	—	—	—	156	101	194	164	265	204
RMR RFCC[2]	—	—	—	—	46	48	46	47	66	66

[1] The All Arms Commando Course (AACC) is conducted primarily to train personnel who will serve either with or support of 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines and is undertaken by service personnel from the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force.

[2] The Royal Marine Reserve. Reserve Forces Commando Course (RMR RFCC) is undertaken by Royal Marine Reserve candidates prior to full Commando Training.

In order to provide the figures prior to 2001 for Royal Marine officers and before 2004 for AACC and RMR RFCC would require a manual search of records which could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on how many of these graduates are still employed within the Royal Marines is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times the Truck Cargo Heavy Duty convoy has had to return to base with its journey uncompleted for each reason in the last three years. [319189]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Truck Cargo Heavy Duty convoy has not had to return to base with its journey uncompleted on any occasion in the last three years.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made an assessment of the merits of the use of mine-resistant ambush protected vehicles by the armed forces. [318074]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The term "Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected" or "MRAP" is a term used within the United States armed forces, and encapsulates a family of protected vehicles. Force Protection Industries have supplied Cougar vehicles for the US MRAP programme; two of these vehicles, the Cougar 4x4 and Cougar 6x6, are the base vehicles for the Mastiff and Ridgback protected vehicles in service with the UK armed forces.

Mastiff and Ridgback were acquired following assessments against a range of key requirements and ability to deliver within Urgent Operational Requirement timelines. Since their entry into service, these vehicles have an excellent protection record and are vehicles of choice for commanders.

Atomic Weapons Establishment: Floods

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for North Devon of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 231W, on the Atomic Weapons Establishment: floods, when he expects discussions with insurers on the costs arising from the July 2007 flooding at the Atomic Weapons Establishment to be concluded. [319192]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Following analysis by Ministry of Defence officials of the Atomic Weapons Establishment Management Ltd. (AWEML) report on this issue, the matter has largely been concluded. Only one minor item remains to be agreed between AWEML and one of its contractors. It is anticipated that this will be resolved within three months.

Bomb Disposal

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on *(a)* acquiring and *(b)* maintaining hand-held mine detectors in each of the last 10 years. [319157]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence has procured a range of hand-held metal detecting equipments that can be used for detecting mines and IEDs. Costs are only available from financial year 2006-07, the year of initial purchase, for the current primary equipment and are broken down as follows:

£ million

Equipment	*Acquisition cost*	*Maintenance cost*
2006-07	1.168	0
2007-08	2.345	0
2008-09	5.066	0
2009-10	8.216	0.136

In addition, approximately £3 million in total over the last 10 years has been spent on a range of specialist metal detectors. To break this figure down further, could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of his Department's hand-held mine detectors are *(a)* in service and *(b)* fit for purpose. [319158]

Mr. Quentin Davies: 100 per cent. of the Department's hand held metal detectors are in service and approximately 91 per cent. are available (i.e. fit for purpose).

Cadets

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* grammar, *(b)* comprehensive and *(c)* academy schools had operational Combined Cadet Forces in the last year for which figures are available. [319983]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As at 1 April 2009, the position in the state sector was:

State grammar schools: 22;
State academies: 4;
Other state schools: 34.

Chemical Weapons: Animals

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 811-12W, on chemical weapons: animals, what the reasons are for the increase in the number of non-human primate tests between 2008-09; and whether any such tests have been conducted on human beings since 2005. [317541]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The number of procedures conducted on animals depends on the demand from the MOD research programme. The increase in the number of procedures returned by Dstl involving non-human primates in 2009 is due to the maturity of long term projects within the research programme. One of these projects concerns the development of new medical countermeasures which require the development of a non-human primate model of human infection. The model is required for the regulatory approval of new medical countermeasures to a range of bacterial and viral infections which are relevant in both military and civilian environments.

The other factor that contributed to the rise in numbers is another project which followed on from earlier studies conducted in a rodent species. These studies determined a necessity for work in a species closer to man to assess the clinical effects of the inhalation of various chemical materials.

The studies undertaken at Dstl Porton Down with human participants do not involve the use of chemical warfare agents. Studies involving the use of service volunteers since 2005 have included the assessment of candidate prophylactic and therapeutic drugs, and the physiological and psychological impact of wearing various combinations of personal protective clothing, including respirators.

Defence Nuclear Weapon Regulator

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 825W, on the Defence Nuclear Weapon Regulator, what the *(a)* terms of reference and *(b)* mission and objectives are of the Defence Nuclear Weapon Regulator. [319185]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As explained in my answer on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 825W, the Nuclear Weapon Regulator is an officer within the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR). The mission/objective of DNSR is to regulate the nuclear and radiological safety of the defence nuclear programmes so that they are managed with due regard for the protection of the work force, the public and the environment. As an individual, the Nuclear Weapon Regulator does not have a mission separate from that of the DNSR team as a whole.

The Nuclear Weapon Regulator's terms of reference are in the form of a letter of delegation from the head of DNSR which provides regulatory authority:

To give permission for nuclear activities on the basis of formal safety submissions, reviews and inspections.

To approve/agree nuclear safety submissions and safety management arrangements.

To offer formal regulatory advice to the authorisee's representatives.

To direct the postponement or cessation of specific nuclear weapons programme activity.

To assess the demonstration of emergency arrangements.

Defence Technology and Innovation Centre

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the budget outturn of the Defence Technology and Innovation Centre for 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [318293]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The current 2009-10 outturn forecast for the Defence Technology and Innovation Centre is £308 million. This can be split into research expenditure of £303 million and operating costs of £5 million.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the value for money of the Defence Technology and Innovation Centre; and if he will make a statement. [318294]

Mr. Quentin Davies: In April 2009 the Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) commissioned an internal review of how all Science and Technology (S&T) is delivered within the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

The review determined that in the interests of achieving the best value for money from MOD's S&T investment, the science|innovation|technology top-level budget (SIT TLB) should stand down, with its tasks integrated in the future by the Centre TLB and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl). The Defence Technology and Innovation Centre (DTIC) is a part of SIT and thus it too will be standing down.

Departmental Housing

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department received from *(a)* renting and *(b)* leasing its housing stock in Scotland to private companies or individuals in each of the last five years. [319354]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Service family accommodation (SFA) is provided to accommodate entitled service personnel and their families. However, where there is no short-to-medium term requirement for SFA, but a long-term requirement remains, the Department will do all it can to make properties available to the wider community.

While information for the last five years could be provided only at disproportionate cost, there are at present 15 SFA properties leased to Moray council for use as social housing at an annual rent of £3,600 per property. This arrangement began in 2009.

In addition, Tri-Service Accommodation Regulations allow for the occupancy of available SFA by eligible civilian occupants. There are currently six eligible civilian occupants of SFA in Scotland. Civilian occupancy charges are set in accordance with local market rates and at present this totals £2,755.34 per month.

Departmental Private Finance Initiative

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's private finance initiative projects have been delayed because of problems obtaining finance; and what the monetary value is of the contract for each such project. [319235]

Bill Rammell: The Department is not aware of any Ministry of Defence private finance initiative projects that have been delayed because of problems obtaining finance.

Future Large Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much additional funding the UK committed to the A400M programme at the EU Defence Ministers' meeting at Palma de Mallorca on 24 to 25 February 2010. [319990]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The UK did not commit any additional funding at this meeting.

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid to the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last five years; how much it has spent on such payments in 2009-10; and what proportion of such payments was made in respect of the Government Car Service. [316420]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) paid £90,035 to the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) in 2008-09, wholly for the Government Car Service (GCS). This amount includes the cost of the car allocated for use by the Secretary of State for Defence as reported by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport in his written ministerial statement on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 79-80WS. The Secretary of State's car is provided as part of a range of security measures connected with the role. MOD payments to the GCDA so far in 2009-10 have totalled £90,535.

Iraq and Afghanistan

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force (i) fixed wing aircraft and (ii) helicopters are deployed in (A) Iraq, (B) Germany, (C) Afghanistan, (D) Cyprus, (E) Diego Garcia, (F) the Falkland Islands and the South Atlantic, (G) Gibraltar, (H) Kuwait, (I) Ascension Island, (J) the United Arab Emirates, (K) Oman, (L) Bahrain and (M) at sea. [316489]

Bill Rammell: There are no manned UK military aircraft deployed in Iraq, Cyprus, Diego Garcia, Gibraltar, Kuwait, the UAE or Ascension Island.

There are 12 Army helicopters permanently based in Germany, though some of these may be deployed on operations or in the UK for maintenance at any given time.

There are 12 RAF manned fixed-wing aircraft in Afghanistan. All three services have helicopters in Afghanistan and there are three Royal Navy helicopters deployed to Oman. I am withholding further information on numbers in operational theatres because it would, or would be likely to, prejudice the efficiency, security and capability of the armed forces.

In the Falkland Islands and the South Atlantic there are six manned fixed wing aircraft and two helicopters, all from the RAF.

There are no manned fixed-wing aircraft at sea. There are currently 10 Royal Navy helicopters at sea.

All figures and types are only for aircraft deployed on operations as at 23 February 2010. Aircraft may also be temporarily overseas for exercises or other short-term visits.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters of each type in each armed service were *(a)* in service, *(b)* in the forward fleet and *(c)* fit for purpose on the latest date for which figures are available. [319492]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Operational capability is measured in terms of flying hours rather than the number of airframes available. All rotary wing operational requirements are currently being met.

Aircraft defined as available (i.e. fit for purpose) are those within the forward fleet that are considered capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date. The number of helicopters available varies from day to day due to routine maintenance requirements.

All aircraft in the forward fleet which are not available are classified as short-term unserviceable. Aircraft in this category will be undergoing first-line maintenance, other minor works or being prepared for transportation. Aircraft which are short-term unserviceable can usually be made available relatively quickly.

The in service total includes aircraft in both the forward fleet and the depth fleet. Aircraft in the depth fleet are those undergoing modifications, depth maintenance, repair and those in storage.

Average across January 2010

Aircraft type	*In service*	*Forward fleet*	*Available*
Navy:			
Sea King 4/6	42	29	18
Lynx Mk3	27	19	10
Lynx Mk8	33	19	12
Merlin Mk1	42	23	14
Sea King Mk5	15	11	7
Sea King Mk7 (SKASac)	13	11	7
Army:			
Apache	67	44	18
N3	4	4	4
Lynx Mk7	77	44	29
Lynx Mk9/9A	23	9	8
Gazelle	27	22	14
Bell 212	8	8	8
RAF:			
Chinook Mk2/3	48	29	21
Merlin Mk3/3A	28	20	10
Puma	43	22	11
Sea King Mk3/3a	25	16	9

Military Aircraft: Training

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training hours *(a)* helicopter pilots and *(b)* trainee helicopter pilots spent on average in each aircraft type in the Royal Air Force in each (i) year since 2005 and (ii) month of 2009. [319240]

Bill Rammell: To become a qualified RAF helicopter pilot individuals undertake initial flying training. Once qualified, pilots are trained to adapt their flying skills to a specific aircraft type which is known as operational conversion unit training. Both types of training are conducted through standardised packages with a set number of flying hours for each pilot. The level of flying required of each pilot for both categories has not changed significantly since 2005.

The training hours for initial flying training for each aircraft type are:

Squirrel: 84 hours, 45 minutes;

Griffin: 77 hours.

The training hours for operational conversion unit training for each aircraft type are:

Merlin: 29 hours;

Puma: 55 hours;

Chinook: 125 hours;

Sea King: 70 hours;

Augusta Western: 28 hours.

Pilots record their own training hours within their personal log books. To determine the average training hours helicopter pilots undertake outside of these training courses would require a manual extraction of data from each individual's flying log followed by analysis. This information is not held centrally and could be obtained at only disproportionate cost.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on joint European projects in each of the last 10 years. [318073]

Mr. Quentin Davies: After clarification I understand that your question refers to how much the Department has spent on joint European equipment acquisition projects over the past 10 years. Records containing the information you seek for all joint European equipment projects is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. I am, however, able to provide you with expenditure information on the largest of these projects drawing on information published in the Major Project Reports. This is provided in the table.

The table includes costs for the Type 45 destroyer project. This is a UK project, but an element of the costs relate to procurement of the Sea Viper (formerly PAAMS) missile, which is being procured collaboratively with France and Italy. The costs for Sea Viper are not recorded separately.

It has only been possible to provide expenditure incurred in-year for the years 2000 to 2008. This information was not collected for Major Projects Report 2009.

Ministry of Defence - major projects report

£ million

Description	*Cost up to March 2000*	*March 2001*	*March 2002*	*March 2003*	*March 2004*	*March 2005*	*March 2006*	*March 2007*	*March 2008*
A400M	—	—	2	0	36	67	94	135	230
Beyond Visual Range Air-To-Air Missile (BVRAAM)	—	—	—	83	41	91	86	69	97
Eurofighter (Typhoon)	4,367	1,077	1,110	1,136	884	908	1,101	1,208	502
Eurofighter Aircrew Synthetic Training Aids (ASTA)	—	—	76	55	39	22	—	—	—
Typhoon Future Capability Programme	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	70
Medium Range TRIGAT	107	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Multi-Role Armoured Vehicle (MRAV)	6	11	4	9	—	—	—	—	—
T45 Destroyer (including Sea Viper (PAAMS))	—	—	487	367	641	777	581	624	640
Total	4,480	1,090	1,679	1,650	1,641	1,865	1,862	2,036	1,539

Royal Military Academy

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many graduates there were from RMA Sandhurst in each of the last 10 years; and how many of them are still employed within the Army. [319241]

Bill Rammell: The number of Regular and TA Officers who have graduated from the Royal Military Academy of Sandhurst in each of the last nine financial years is shown in the following table.

Output from RMAS

	Regular	*Territorial Army*
2001-02	714	257
2002-03	720	261
2003-04	713	287
2004-05	746	195
2005-06	752	115
2006-07	707	172
2007-08	712	217
2008-09	713	171
2009-10	645	157

Figures prior to financial year 2001-02 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Regular Officer information for 2009-10 does include a cohort of Officer Cadets who will pass out at Easter. Subject to any late removals from course this number may change. All TA courses for this period have completed.

Information on how many of those who graduated from Sandhurst in these years and are still employed within the Army is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Royal Naval College

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many graduates there were from Britannia Royal Naval College in each of the last 10 years; and how many of them are still employed within the Navy. [319242]

Bill Rammell: The number of Royal Navy personnel to pass out of Britannia Royal Navy College (BRNC) in each of the last 10 years is as follows:

Britannia Royal Navy College

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Royal Navy[1]	478	446	418	372	330	320	320	325	248	314
Royal Fleet Auxiliary	0	0	20	0	25	0	32	21	8	33
Foreign Nationals	55	37	41	48	65	41	40	63	60	77

[1] These figures include Royal Navy Reserve personnel.

Information on how many of these graduates are still employed within the Royal Navy is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency: Manpower

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency employs in each salary band. [319486]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of staff employed in the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency in each salary band for both military and civilian staff, as at 1 February 2010, are shown in the following tables:

Military

NATO Grades	Number
OF6	3
OF5	6
OF4	9
OF3	19
OF2	6
OR8	2
OR7	5
OR9	7
Total	57

Civilian

Broader banded grade	Number[1]
SCS	2
B1	4
B2	7
C1	37
C2	100
D	346
E1	335
E2	123
Skill zone 2	58
Skill zone 1	3
Medical advisor[2]	22
NHS[2]	7
Total	1044

[1] The figures for civilian staff are a headcount based on their substantive grade. Headcount is a measure of the size of the workforce that counts all staff equally regardless of their hours of work.

[2] Ministry of Defence staff employed on national health service terms and conditions.

Type 45 Destroyers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what timetable has been set for the delivery of the new Type 45 destroyers; and if he will make a statement. [319725]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The in-service date for HMS Daring, the first in the Class of Type 45 Destroyers, is expected to be declared later this year. The remaining five ships in the Type 45 Programme are expected to enter service progressively through to mid-2014.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Sea Viper missile system. [319727]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The effectiveness of the Sea Viper weapon system is being assessed through a rigorous trials programme to ensure that all the requirements of this complex system have been met and any problems resolved before it enters service.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made any official visits in connection with the new Type 45 destroyers. [319728]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Since August 2007, the current Secretary of State for Defence has made two official visits to HMS Daring, the first in the Class of Type 45 Destroyers; these visits were made when he was the then Minister of State for the armed forces. Details of these and all other official visits made by Defence Ministers in respect of Type 45 Destroyers are listed in the following table:

Date of visit	Defence Minister	Type 45 ship
2007		
14 August	Right hon. Bob Ainsworth MP, the then Minister of State for the Armed Forces	HMS Daring
2008		
29 February	Right hon. Baroness Taylor of Bolton, the then Minister of State for Defence Equipment and Support	HMS Duncan
4 September	Right hon. Bob Ainsworth MP, the then Minister of State for the Armed Forces	HMS Daring
17 November	Quentin Davies MP, Minister of State for Defence Equipment and Support	HMS Dragon
2009		
28 January	Quentin Davies MP, Minister of State for Defence Equipment and Support	HMS Daring
1 July	Kevan Jones MP, Minister of State for Veterans	HMS Dauntless
20 July	Bill Rammell MP, Minister of State for the Armed Forces	HMS Daring
7 and 8 October	Quentin Davies MP, Minister of State for Defence Equipment and Support	HMS Daring

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Written Questions

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Leader of the House if she will take steps to ensure that all written questions due for answer on a named day before dissolution of Parliament receive a substantive answer. [320112]

Barbara Keeley: The clear expectation, as set out in the Guide to Parliamentary Work published by my office, is that Departments should ensure that Members receive a substantive response to their named day question on the date specified. However, it may not be possible for questions which are tabled for answer after the last sitting day of the Session to receive a reply.

The full 'Guide to Parliamentary Work' can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide.aspx

CABINET OFFICE

Chequers

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance governs the display of fine china at Chequers. [318942]

Tessa Jowell: Chequers is established under the Chequers Estate Acts 1917 and 1958 and is administered by independent trustees. Any guidance governing the presentation of the collection is a matter for the trustees.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Office for National Statistics has classified the community infrastructure levy as a form of taxation. [319636]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking whether the Office for National Statistics has classified the community infrastructure levy as a tax (319636).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has not yet made a classification decision with regard to the Community Infrastructure Levy. Although the concept of a levy has been around for some time, having been part of the Planning Act 2008, ONS does not generally consider draft proposals as part of its classification process. Consequently, ONS has been waiting for the publication of the finalised version before formally considering it and making a classification decision.

The exact details of how the levy will be implemented have only been published recently, with the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 laid before the House of Commons on 10 February 2010. ONS will make a formal classification decision on the levy in due course.

A summary of the UK National Accounts sector and transaction classification process is published on the ONS website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/national_statistics/cop/downloads/NAclassification.pdf

Government Departments: Advertising

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what advertising and marketing campaigns are being co-ordinated by the Central Office of Information in 2009-10; how many such campaigns that Office plans to co-ordinate in 2010-11; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of each such campaign. [318121]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the right hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 23 February 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [318121] asking for information regarding advertising and marketing campaigns co-ordinated by COI in 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Figures for campaigns, for the current year, co-ordinated by COI have not yet been finalised.

Accurate information for the current financial year will only be published once the annual accounts have been fully audited.

Estimates of the cost and number of campaigns are not held by COI but by the commissioning department.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many companies participate in the Central Office of Information framework agreement for online advertising; what the monetary value is of the contracts under the framework agreement; and on what date that agreement was made in its final form. [318132]

Ms Butler: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the right hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 23 February 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [318132] asking for information regarding the online adverting framework.

The COI does not have a framework for online advertising, this may however be included on other frameworks that we manage, and a list can be found on our website:

www.coi.gov.uk

Government Departments: Marketing

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the Central Office of Information's contract procurement notice 2009/S 210-302171 for Brand and Brand Identity Framework, whether the proposed £4 million of expenditure is in relation to *(a)* branding in total or *(b)* establishing a framework agreement and approved suppliers. [318348]

Ms Butler: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the right hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 23 February 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [318348] asking for information regarding the allocation of expenditure in relation to the Brand and Brand Identity Framework.

The £4 million of expenditure relates to the estimated value of a framework agreement over a four year period.

Government Departments: Public Relations

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans the Central Office of Information has to establish a framework agreement for public affairs firms as suppliers to Government departments and agencies. [318251]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the right hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 23 February 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [318251] asking whether COI has plans to establish a framework for public affairs firms.

COI has no plans to establish a framework for public affairs at this time.

Honours

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the Prime Minister's speech at Britain's Everyday Heroes Book Launch of 24 July 2007, how many individuals have received an Award for Social Technology to date. [318353]

Angela E. Smith: The UK Catalyst Awards—the community awards for social technology—were awarded to businesses that used social media to tackle current social challenges. A total of eight awards were received by businesses in 2008.

The event formed part of the work programme of the Council on Social Action. A full list of award winners from the 2008 UK Catalyst Awards can be found at:

http://www.enterpriseuk.org/get_involved/uk_catalyst_awards

A copy of the list will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants in Leeds, North-West constituency had been claiming the allowance for *(a)* up to three, *(b)* between three and six, *(c)* between six and 12 and *(d)* between 12 and 24 months in each month since September 2009. [319495]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants in Leeds, North-West constituency had been claiming the allowance for (a) up to three, (b) between three and six, (c) between six and 12 and (d) between 12 and 24 months in each month since September 2009. (319495)

The Office for National Statisties (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

The table attached shows the number of claims of JSA for people resident in Leeds, North-West parliamentary constituency, and the percentage of all claimants, by duration of the claim in each month since September 2009.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1 Number and proportion of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance by duration of claim resident in Leeds, North-West constituency

	Number of claimants (Thousand)					Proportions of claimants (Percentage)			
	Up to 13 weeks	Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks	Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks	Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks	Total	Up to 13 weeks	Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks	Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks	Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks
September 2009	1,050	440	385	180	2,085	50	21	19	9
October 2009	1,050	440	375	185	2,080	51	21	18	9
November 2009	965	490	365	215	2,055	47	23	18	10
December 2009	930	500	380	225	2,065	45	24	18	11
January 2010	890	540	430	230	2,110	42	26	20	11

Note:
1. Data rounded to nearest five.
2. Age and duration data are only available for computerised claims, which account for 99.7 per cent. of all claims.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many young people aged 16 and 17 years old in Leeds, North-West constituency have claimed jobseeker's allowance in each year since 2005. [319505]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many young people aged 16 and 17 years in Leeds, North-West constituency have claimed jobseeker's allowance in each year since 2005 (319505)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. Table 1 shows the number of people aged 16 and 17 resident in Leeds, North-West parliamentary constituency, claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) in January 2010 and January of each year since 2005.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons[1] aged 16 and 17 claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in Leeds, North-West parliamentary constituency

As at January each year	*Leeds, North-West*
2005	5
2006	10
2007	5
2008	5
2009	5
2010	5

[1] Age data are only available for computerised claims, which account for 99.7 per cent. of all claims.
Note:
Data rounded to nearest 5.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Tice what the average length of time was for which aimants aged between 18 and 24 years resident in eeds, North-West constituency were in receipt of bseeker's allowance in *(a)* each of the last 12 months d *(b)* each of the last five years. [319627]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls thin the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I ve been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking r what the average length of time was for which claimants aged tween 18 and 24 years resident in Leeds, North-West constituency ere in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in (a) each of the last months and (b) each of the last five years. (319627)

The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) is ken from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. The length a claim has been defined as the time between the start of an dividual's claim and the count date in each reference month. able 1 shows the median length of live claims during the last months up to the latest available period in January 2010, and r January of each of the last 5 years for those people aged 18-24 sident in the Leeds, North-West Constituency.

National and local area estimates for many labour market atistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant ount are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Median length of claims of jobseeker's allowance of persons1 aged 18-24 resident in Leeds, North-West constituency

	Leeds, North-West (median)
ears (as at January)	
006	13.5
007	11.7
008	11.2
009	9.8
010	12.1
Months	
February 2009	9.0
March 2009	10.1
April 2009	10.7
May 2009	11.4
June 2009	10.4
July 2009	6.8
August 2009	7.3
September 2009	8.4
October 2009	8.2
November 2009	9.7
December 2009	10.6
January 2010	12.1

[1] Length of claim data are only available for computerised claims, which account for 99.7 per cent. of all claims.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Administrative System

New Businesses: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many businesses have started up in Leeds, North-West constituency since 1997; and how many of those businesses were operating in the latest period for which figures are available. [319503]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many businesses have started up in Leeds, North-West constituency since 1997; and how many of those businesses were operating in the latest period for which figures are available [319503].

The ONS release on Business Demography at

www.statistics.gov.uk

gives information on five year survival rates, but these are not available prior to 2003. The table below contains the latest statistics available on survival into 2008 for Leeds, North-West.

Enterprise births and survival into 2008 for Leeds, North-West

	Births	Number surviving into 2008
2003	495	155
2004	315	175
2005	285	190
2006	305	240
2007	330	315

Pay

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* mean, *(b)* median, *(c)* 10th percentile and *(d)* 90th percentile level of (i) private and (ii) public sector salaries in each (A) region and (B) industrial category was in each year since 1997. [318688]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated February 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) mean, (b) median, (c) 10th percentile and (d) 90th percentile levels of (i) private and (ii) public sector salaries were in each of the years since 1997, broken down by (A) region and (B) industrial category. I am replying in his absence. (318688)

Annual levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for full-time employees on adult rates of pay, who have been in the same job for more than a year. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

Tables showing annual salary estimates for full-time employees according to the breakdowns you requested will be placed in the Libraries of the House. The figures are provided for each year from 1999, the earliest period for which annual earnings estimates are available.

Personal Income: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the average income of a household resident in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in the (i) private and (ii) social rented sector in each of the last three years. [318101]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

We use Households Below Average Income data to provide estimates of average incomes. However, the sample size of this survey is not sufficient to provide estimates for low-level geographies such as those requested.

Personal Income: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the average income of a household in Leeds, North-West constituency in the *(a)* private and *(b)* social rented sector in each of the last three years. [319496]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of the average income of a household in Leeds, North-West constituency in the (a) private and (b) social rented sector in each of the last three years. (319496).

The information requested is not available.

Population

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the population density was of each region of England in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1990, *(c)* 2000 and *(d)* 2010; and what the expected population density in each region is in (i) 2020, (ii) 2030 and (iii) 2050. [319986]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director-General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the population density was of each region of England in (a) 1980, (b) 1990, (c) 2000 and (d) 2010; and what the expected population density in each region is in (i) 2020, (ii) 2030 and (iii) 2050. (319986)

The attached table shows population density, calculated for each mid-year, as requested. Figures for 1980 to the year 2000 are derived using mid-year population estimates and the relevant land area. Figures for 2010 to 2030 are derived using 2006-based subnational population projections and assume land areas for the UK constituent countries remain constant into the future. Population density figures for 2050 are not available.

Population density for Government office regions in England for selected years

Persons per sq km

	1980[1]	*1990*[1]	*2000*[1]	*2010*[2]	*2020*[2]	*2030*[2]
North East	309	301	297	301	312	322
North West	493	484	480	495	520	544
Yorkshire and The Humber	319	319	322	346	376	407
East Midlands	246	256	267	291	321	349
West Midlands	399	401	405	421	446	468
East	252	266	281	305	336	364
London	4,358	4,325	4,603	4,931	5,303	5,606
South East	376	396	419	445	479	512
South West	183	196	206	223	245	266

[1] Population densities are derived using mid-year population estimates and the relevant land area.

[2] Population densities are derived using 2006-based sub-national population projections, assuming constant land area for the UK constituent countries into the future.

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Social Leadership Forum

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the Prime Minister's speech at Britain's Everyday Heroes Book Launch of 24 July 2007, on what dates the Forum on Social Leadership has met since July 2007. [318352]

Angela E. Smith: Chain Reaction, the forum on social leadership, has held two annual conferences. The first was held on 17 and 18 November 2008 and the second on 12 November 2009.

The event formed part of the work programme of the Council on Social Action. For more information about both events see:

www.chain-reaction.org

Unemployment: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the level of unemployment in Leeds, North-West constituency was in each year since 1997. [319604]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the level of unemployment in Leeds, North-West constituency was in each year since 1997. (319604)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, estimates of unemployment for the Leeds, North-West constituency are unavailable.

As an alternative, in Table 1 we have provided the number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for the Leeds, North-West constituency for January 2010 and January of each year since 1997.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1. Number of persons resident in Leeds, North-West parliamentary constituency claiming jobseeker's allowance

January each year	*Number*
1997	2,167
1998	1,743
1999	1,505
2000	1,310
20[illegible]	1,061
2002	1,054
2003	1,133
2004	999
2005	917
2006	1,042
2007	1,034
2008	964
2009	1,640
2010	2,111

Source:

Jobcentre Plus administrative system

OREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

West Bank Checkpoints

. **Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for
eign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent
ssment he has made of progress in the removal of
kpoints from the west bank. [319397]

r. Ivan Lewis: The UK welcomes Israel's easing of
e restrictions on movement and access in the west
k as a step in the right direction. While recognizing
el's legitimate security needs, we shall continue to
e the Israeli Government to reduce movement and
ss restrictions further.

Tzipi Livni

6. **Ms Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for
eign and Commonwealth Affairs what
resentations he has received on the law in relation to
versal jurisdiction, with particular reference to the
e of Tzipi Livni. [319398]

r. Ivan Lewis: I have discussed the law in relation to
versal jurisdiction, and in particular the case of
pi Livni, with Israeli Ministers. I have also received
respondence from a number of non-governmental
ups. Government officials have also been asked for
ormation on the UK's position by US and EU
nterparts.

EU Budget

17. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for
reign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent
essment he has made of prospects for reform of the
 budget. [319399]

Chris Bryant: The December European Council called
on the European Commission to publish a report in
der to provide orientations on priorities during 2010.
e Government remain committed to reform of the
 budget to make it fit for the 21st century, and will
ntinue to explore ways of achieving this with like-minded
ember states.

24. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for
reign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent
scussions he has had on reform of the EU budget.
[319406]

Chris Bryant: Reform of the EU budget was last
scussed at the December European Council. Heads of
overnment agreed conclusions language calling on the
ommission to produce a report in order for the Council
 provide orientations on priorities during 2010. The
overnment remain committed to reform of the EU
dget to make it fit for the 21st century and will
ntinue to work with like-minded member states to
hieve it.

Sri Lanka

18. **Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for
oreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent
ssessment he has made of the political situation in Sri
anka; and if he will make a statement. [319400]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary released a written statement on 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 36-38WS, updating the House on the political situation in Sri Lanka and outlining recent UK actions.

A link to the statement can be found here:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100223/wmstext/100223m0009.htm#column_36WS

Pakistan

19. **Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the importance of the stability of Pakistan for the Government's policy on the region. [319401]

David Miliband: A stable, secure Pakistan enjoying good relations with her neighbours is important for UK objectives in South Asia and Afghanistan, particularly given the ongoing threat to UK forces in Afghanistan emanating from Pakistan's border areas. The UK and Pakistan, together with other international partners, are working closely together to support the extension of Government control over the border areas. £50 million of the Department for International Development (DFID)'s £665 million programme for Pakistan is going to support this stabilisation effort. The UK also strongly supports renewed dialogue between Pakistan and its neighbours, notably India, as an important component of wider regional stability.

Gaza

20. **Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last discussed the blockade of Gaza with his Israeli counterpart. [319402]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK is deeply concerned by the humanitarian situation in Gaza. We continue to press the Israeli authorities to ease border restrictions further and to permit a greater flow of humanitarian aid, reconstruction materials, trade goods, and people into Gaza. This was most recently raised by the Secretary of State for International Development.

Iran

21. **Sir Malcolm Rifkind:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Iran; and if he will make a statement. [319403]

David Miliband: Iranian authorities continue to suppress legitimate protest, restrict civil liberties and threaten violence, even execution, to silence dissent. But many Iranians continue to demand their fundamental rights. We urge the authorities to heed their citizens' calls, and ensure [illegible]etter future for all Iranians.

Falkland Islands

22. **Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Argentinian ambassador on sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. [319404]

Chris Bryant: There has been no Argentine ambassador to the UK since July 2008. I have had no recent discussions on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands with the Argentine embassy. The UK Government have no doubt about their sovereignty over the Islands.

Pregnant Women: Burkina Faso

23. **Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on discrimination against pregnant women in Burkina Faso; and if he will make a statement. [319405]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has noted Amnesty International's recent report on this issue. We are pleased to learn from Amnesty that President Compaoré of Burkina Faso met them on 12 February 2010 and committed to lifting all financial barriers to emergency obstetric care and access to family planning.

Burma: Arms Trade

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 978W, on Burma: arms trade, whether his Department has had discussions with the government of *(a)* Canada, *(b)* New Zealand and *(c)* Brazil on a UN-mandated arms embargo against Burma. [319782]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Following my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's letter to the UN Secretary General and Security Council members in August 2009, we have made broad appeals to international governments to join the EU and ban the sale of arms to Burma. We have recently focused our diplomatic effort on raising the issue of a universal arms embargo with Burma's neighbours. We have also communicated our views to the Russian Government, as Russia is a notable supplier of arms to Burma. We have not yet raised an arms embargo with the Governments of Brazil, New Zealand or Canada. These and many other countries will be covered in a structured global campaign that will be launched shortly by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Burma: Human Rights

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 979W, on Burma: human rights, what discussions he has had in the United Nations Human Rights Council and the United Nations General Assembly on reports of crimes against humanity and war crimes in Burma. [319783]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In both the Human Rights Council and UN General Assembly we have consistently raised our serious concern at reports of human rights abuses in Burma. Our approach reflects the representations we have had from a number of concerned parties who report on situations they believe amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes. Our judgment is that we would not be able to secure support within the UN Security Council for the actions that would be necessary to follow up with formal charges on those grounds. However, resolutions secured with strong UK support in the UN's human rights bodies make specific reference to human rights violations by the military regime.

Colombia: Politics and Government

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of statements by senior Colombian government officials linking senior members of the political opposition in that country to terrorist and subversive activity. [319750]

Chris Bryant: We have not picked up on recent reports of officials linking members of the opposition to terrorist and subversive activity. But we are aware of such statements having been made in the past, which are damaging to the credibility of Colombian politics and, more importantly, potentially dangerous to those whom the statements are directed at.

Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the activities of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda following Rwanda's accession to the Commonwealth. [319651]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) continue to pose a destabilising presence in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo as violent attacks on civilians, particularly sexual violence against women, still occur. However efforts against the FDLR are ongoing, including recent military operations in the Kivus which have weakened the command and control structures, as have the arrests of key members of the leadership in Europe. Efforts in 2009 through the Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Resettlement and Reintegration programme have led to 1,997 FDLR being demobilised, with 1,552 repatriated to Rwanda, three times as many as in 2008.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the savings in travel costs likely to be made consequent on the use by officials of his Department of economy class tickets for flights of up to five hours. [318613]

Chris Bryant: As part of a review of allowances we have proposed that all journeys of up to five hours (by train or air) should be taken in economy/standard class (including Eurostar). The Trade Union Side are now consulting their members about the proposals in the review. We estimate that using economy class for journeys up to five hours would save in the region of £600,000 per annum.

Diplomatic Service: Manpower

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has received advice on the permissibility of making redundant management service officers and replacing them in that capacity with locally-engaged staff; and if he will make a statement. [319429]

hris Bryant: To date there have been no compulsory undancies as a result of localisation of management cer positions. Some management officers have chosen ake voluntary early retirement. However no one has n forced to leave. Our policy is to avoid compulsory undancies wherever possible. In response to concerns sed by the trade union side, we sought advice on this estion and we are fully committed to following our al obligations in any redundancy situation should it se.

Government Hospitality: Wines

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for reign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the swer of 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 5W, on Government hospitality: wines, what portion of the backlog of data has been cleared ce the date of that answer. [320075]

Chris Bryant: Work on the Share Point Users database the Government Hospitality Cellar is on-going and undertaken by one civil servant as part of a much der range of duties and priorities. We are working wards a completion date of July 2010 for the system be fully updated.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for oreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many quests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s Department has received for information about the overnment wine cellar in the last three years. [320093]

Chris Bryant: Between 2007 and the end of 2009 overnment Hospitality (GH) received 18 requests under e Freedom of Information Act 2000 relating to the overnment Hospitality wine cellar or the GH Advisory ommittee for the Purchase of Wine. So far in 2010 H has received five Freedom of Information requests.

International Atomic Energy Agency

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for oreign and Commonwealth Affairs what matters were iscussed in his meeting with the Director-General of e International Atomic Energy Agency on 3 February 2010. [319894]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign ecretary met the new Director General of the International tomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on 23 February during ukiya Amano's first official visit to the UK. They iscussed the latest developments on the Iranian nuclear le and other nuclear issues.

As a member of the IAEA Board, the UK is fully upportive of the Agency's work to ensure the robust mplementation of IAEA safeguards agreements in ountries of concern.

Nuclear Disarmament: Conferences

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for oreign and Commonwealth Affairs what epresentation his Department had at the global zero ummit on nuclear disarmament in Paris on 2 to February; and what evaluation he has made of the a) papers discussed and *(b)* conclusions reached at he summit. [319667]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our embassy in Paris represented the UK. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister issued a statement welcoming Global Zero's work towards a safer world and setting out the UK's commitment to pursuing the goal of a world free from nuclear weapons.

At the summit, Global Zero launched their 2010 'Action Plan' which sets out a timeframed strategy towards zero in four phases, including a multilateral Global Zero accord. The UK firmly believes that sustainable global nuclear disarmament can only be achieved through a multilateral process, and stands ready to engage in a future broader multilateral process when the conditions are right. The UK is actively working to create the necessary conditions to enable countries to give up their nuclear weapons, verifiably and irreversibly.

Scientists

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government Chief Scientist has provided advice to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) Commissioner on the proposed marine protected area in the BIOT. [320087]

Chris Bryant: Marine Resources and Fisheries Consultants (MRAG) Ltd. is currently contracted by the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) Administration to manage the Territory's fisheries. Professor Beddington stood down as Director of MRAG Ltd. on the announcement of his appointment by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 1 October 2007. He has taken no part in any MRAG activities since that time. Since his appointment he has had no discussions with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) or any other Department on fisheries with which MRAG is involved. Neither has Professor Beddington offered any advice on the proposed Marine Protected Area in BIOT. In responding to the FCO public consultation, the company's Development Director has declared MRAG's interest in the outcome of the consultation.

Southern Africa: AIDS

Mr. Borrow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his own Department's specific commitments in the Government's AIDS strategy Achieving Universal Access apply to middle-income countries in Southern Africa. [319418]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Achieving Universal Access strategy does apply to middle-income countries in Southern Africa, although we do not expect to undertake activities in every middle-income African country. We are prioritising our limited resources to focus our activities in those countries where we can have the biggest impact on specific commitments.

For example, our High Commission in Windhoek supports politically and promotes advocacy of UN Children's Fund HIV/AIDS work in Namibia for orphans, women and vulnerable children (the Department for International Development (DFID) provides annual funding of approximately £1 million) and EU funded HIV/AIDS initiatives. Our High Commission also provided political support for the Namibian Government's 'Public Service Workspace Policy' on AIDS and for the US

President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief conference hosted by Namibia in June. In South Africa, our High Commission has helped DFID to agree the priorities and maximise the impact of their HIV/AIDS programme.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Posts overseas also offer targeted lobbying and political support to DFID in low income countries.

Uganda: Oil

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with British oil companies engaged in exploration in Uganda on the environmental effects in the region of such exploration activities. [319428]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our high commission in Kampala is in contact with British companies and other stakeholders engaged in the oil sector in Uganda. Uganda's oil and gas policy and proposed new oil legislation is aimed at addressing key priorities including resource management, revenue management and environmental protection. The UK and our international partners will continue to encourage the Government of Uganda to establish a comprehensive and transparent framework to ensure the responsible exploitation and management of its oil resources.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Banks

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions Ministers in his Department have had with *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer, *(b)* the Governor of the Bank of England, *(c)* representatives of UK businesses, *(d)* any such bank or similar institution overseas and *(e)* the European Commission on the merits of establishing a state-owned investment bank; and if he will make a statement. [319912]

Mr. McFadden: Ministers in BIS have frequent discussions within and outside Government about options to ensure that there continues to be adequate investment to promote economic growth in the period ahead.

Cadbury: Fair Trade Initiative

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he discussed with the purchasers of Cadbury any measures to maintain that company's commitment to the use of fairly traded cocoa, chocolate and other products; and if he will make a statement. [319170]

Ian Lucas: I have neither met, nor spoken to, representatives of Kraft. However, when Irene Rosenfeld, chairman and CEO of Kraft, met my right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State on 2 February, she confirmed that she expected the company's commitments to Fair Trade to continue.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the executive agencies for which he is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in (i) his Department and (ii) its executive agencies of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff is. [317906]

Mr. McFadden: Based on management information, within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills 7.8 per cent. of staff have declared a disability, 79.9 per cent. have declared that they do not have a disability and the remaining 12.4 per cent. of staff have chosen not to respond to the questionnaire. 0.8 per cent. of staff have declared themselves disabled and are working part time.

The following tables show the average salaries of both part-time and full-time by their pay band and disability status.

Full time staff

Grades	*Percentage of FT disabled staff*	*Average salary (£)*	*Percentage of FT non disabled staff*	*Average salary (£)*	*Percentage of FT non declared staff*	*Average salary (£)*
AA–AO	14.8	20,627	80.1	20,874	5.1	19,411
EO–HEO	8.6	28,326	74.8	28,876	16.6	27,200
SEO–G6	6.2	40,341	82.6	47,991	11.1	40,067
SCS	4.5	81,994	84.6	83,574	10.9	95,056
All FT staff	7.8	36,209	79.4	41,306	12.7	39,856

Part time staff

Grades	*Percentage of PT disabled staff*	*Average salary[1] (£)*	*Percentage of PT non disabled staff*	*Average Salary[1] (£)*	*Percentage of PT non declared staff*	*Average salary[1] (£)*
AA–AO	5.6	20,263	88.9	19,056	5.6	19,411
EO–HEO	8.5	27,016	80.8	27,116	10.8	27,200
SEO–G6	6.2	42,362	83.1	50,500	10.7	40,067
SCS	10.3	70,871	86.2	70,992	3.4	95,056
All PT staff	7.2	37,020	83.4	40,600	9.5	39,856

[1] The large differences between the average salaries of part time staff is due to the very small numbers of both those who have declared a disability and those who have not responded to the questionnaire which make up only 0.8 per cent. and 1 per cent. respectively of the Department's work force.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the Intellectual Property Office and the National Measurement Office they will respond to the Hon. Member directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 10 February 2010, UIN 317906 to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The proportion of Companies House staff known to be disabled is 3.1% and the median salary for both non-disabled and disabled staff is £18,320. This salary figure applies to both full-time and part-time staff. These figures are taken from the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey, published by the Office for National Statistics.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 19 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question, tabled on 10 February 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking for details of disabled staff employed by the Department and its agencies.

Information provided by the National Measurement Office (then known as the National Weights and Measures Laboratory) is included in the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES) statistics published by the Office for National Statistics on 20 January 2010:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/cs0110.pdf

Statistics in that Survey are based on self declaration of staff who wish to be considered disabled. In practice, no employee of the NMO has currently made such a declaration. Because the statistics depend on self declaration, no account is taken of members of staff who have medical conditions which have led them to make applications for reasonable adjustments under our equal opportunities or health & safety policies, but have not made such declarations.

Letter from John Alty, dated 16 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 10 February 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The IPO employs 905 staff of which 20 (2.2%) have declared a disability. Of this 20, 17 are full-time and 3 part-time.

Average salary costs are shown below:

(A) Full-time disabled: £28,266.10

(B) Full-time non-disabled: £30,808.36

(C) Part-time disabled: £17,955.07

(D) Part-time non-disabled: £26,337.83

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 26 February 2010:

The Minister of State, Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has asked me to reply to your question regarding how many and what proportion of staff in (a) his Department and (b) the executive agencies for which he is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in (i) his Department and (ii) the executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff.

There is a total of 2685 employees as at 1st February 2010. 357 (13.3%) of these are disabled. There is also a number of employees whose disability status is not known (163).

The table below gives average salary details[1].

£

	Disabled	*Non-disabled*
Full-time	(a) 25,606.80	(b) 26,206.76
Part-time	(c) 23,438.52	(d) 24,901.01

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1117W, on departmental written questions, whether his Department maintains a database to monitor the progress of replies to parliamentary questions. [318383]

Mr. McFadden: Yes. The Department uses the database to monitor performance in answering parliamentary questions and will use it to produce published reports to Parliament in due course.

Music: Copyright

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely effect on tax revenues of the abolition of the exemption of charities from public performance licence requirements. [318350]

Mr. Lammy: The Government have made no assessment of the likely effect on tax revenues of the repeal of the statutory exemption from licensing requirements for the public performance of recorded and broadcast music by some charitable and not-for-profit organisations.

This measure is about providing a suitable legal framework for the music industry to ensure that the contribution made by musical performers and producers can be recognised. It is not a Government fiscal measure and therefore, following Better Regulation Executive guidance, it was not necessary to consider any impact on tax revenues.

Regional European Offices

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1128W, on regional European offices, whether the Government Offices for the Regions *(a)* contribute to the funding of the regional European offices in Brussels and *(b)* hold copies of their accounts. [319012]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In 2009/10 three Government offices for the regions contributed to the funding of regional European offices in Brussels: GO East, GO East Midlands and GO North East. Neither holds copies of the accounts of those regional European offices.

Science: Expenditure

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Government has spent on promotion of the UK's science base since 1997. [318147]

Mr. Lammy: Government spending on promotion of the UK's broad science base is widely distributed among the science-using Departments and a number of agencies and non-departmental public bodies, such as the research councils.

Within BIS alone (and formerly as DIUS and DTI), the Science and Society team spends a focused budget, drawn from the science budget allocation, on a number of key national activities. Budgets for this work have increased from around £1.25 million in 1997/98 to £17.4 million for the final year (2010/11) of the latest comprehensive spending review, reflecting both the sustained increases to the science budget and the increasing importance on public engagement and the relationship between science and society in the UK.

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[1] Employees whose disability status is not known have not been included in any of the average salary data.

While BIS leads many Government activities, and is accountable to my right hon. and noble Friend the Minister of State for Science and Innovation, other Departments across Government directly promote either the science they fund, or the value of science in delivering their own objectives. For example, in January 2008 DCSF announced a £140 million strategy to educate the next generation of scientists and mathematicians, and provide more STEM teachers. This programme includes a significant science promotion element.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Opium

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to reduce levels of production of opium in Afghanistan. [318975]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is taking the following steps to support licit alternatives to opium production in Afghanistan:

Contributing £30 million over four years to the Comprehensive Agricultural and Rural Development Facility (CARD-F), a national programme designed to increase legal incomes and sustain poppy free districts across Afghanistan.

Spending around £5 million in support of Governor Mangal's Food Zone programme, to help distribute wheat seed, fertiliser and appropriate training to almost 40,000 farmers across Helmand province. The UK Conflict Fund will also contribute £3 million to this programme.

We are also considering further options to increase productivity nationwide.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many thefts from his Department have been recorded in the last two years. [318995]

Mr. Michael Foster: The numbers of recorded thefts in the last two financial years were 10 in 2007-08 and eight in 2008-09.

Poland: Forestry

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the £100 million committed to forestry in Poznan in December 2008 has been *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent. [319992]

Mr. Thomas: The UK announced up to £100 million of funding for forestry at Poznan in 2008. So far we have allocated £50 million to the Forest Investment Program (FIP), one of the multi-donor Climate Investment Funds, of which £12 million has been deposited. The FIP trust fund sub-committee is currently considering expressions of interest from 44 countries and regions, before selecting five pilots for funding. The UK is a member of this committee and will play a role in the deliberations. The remainder has been provisionally allocated to the FIP, and will be deposited in the next financial year, subject to good progress.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* under 18 years and *(b)* 18 years and over were admitted to hospital with a condition related to alcohol misuse in each year since 1997-98. [318943]

Gillian Merron: The information is in the following table. It is important to note that the figures provided relate to admissions of patients rather than number of patients as a patient can be admitted more than once in a year.

Number of admissions of patients aged under 18 and 18 and over with an alcohol-related condition

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Under 18	10,976	12,043	12,982	14,421	14,465	14,501	12,832
18 and over	499,197	557,374	631,203	721,091	784,655	848,763	932,391
Total	510,173	569,417	644,185	735,512	799,120	863,264	945,223

Note

Includes activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Alcohol-related admissions

The number of alcohol-related admissions is estimated, based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory. Figures for under 16s only include admissions where one or more of the following alcohol-specific conditions were listed

Alcoholic cardiomyopathy (I42.6)
Alcoholic gastritis (K29.2)
Alcoholic liver disease (K70)
Alcoholic myopathy (G72.1)
Alcoholic polyneuropathy (G62.1)
Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome (E24.4)
Chronic pancreatitis (alcohol induced) (K86.0)
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol (G31.2)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10)
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol (X45)
Ethanol poisoning (T51.0)
Methanol poisoning (T51.1)

Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified (T51.9)

Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis. These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed)

Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. It should be noted that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Primary diagnosis

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

Secondary diagnosis

As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 (13 from 2002-03 to 2007-08 and six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

Data quality

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Assignment of Episodes to Years

Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.

Source

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effects of pricing of alcoholic drinks on levels of alcohol abuse; and if he will make a statement. [318896]

Gillian Merron: In December 2008 the Department published an independent review of the effects of alcohol pricing and promotion from the School of Health and Related Research at the university of Sheffield. The review estimated the effects on health, crime and young people of a range of options including the impact of different levels of minimum unit price.

A copy of the publication "Independent Review of the Effects of Alcohol Pricing and Promotion from the School of Health and Related Research at the University of Sheffield" has already been placed in the Library.

We continue to look at how we can tackle the problems caused by cheap alcohol, while respecting the rights of responsible consumers and the Government have commissioned further research in this area.

Care Quality Commission

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Care Quality Commission charged organisations for *(a)* initial and *(b)* repeat inspections in England in the last 12 months. [319908]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Care Quality Commission is the new integrated regulator for health and adult social care from 1 April 2009.

Regulated providers of adult social care and independent health care are charged fees by the Care Quality Commission in 2009-10. We have been informed by the Care Quality Commission that the total annual fees it charged organisations from 1 April 2009 to 31 January 2010 is £53.3 million. In the same period, the Care Quality Commission additionally charged independent health care organisations a total of £14,000 for repeat inspections.

Details of the fees charged to adult social care regulated providers is set out on the Care Quality Commission's website at:

www.cqc.org.uk/guidanceforprofessionals/registration/socialcare/fees.cfm

Details of the fees charged to independent health care regulated providers is set out on the Care Quality Commission's website at:

www.cqc.org.uk/guidanceforprofessionals/registration/independenthealthcareservices/howtoregister.cfm

For 2009-10, the Care Quality Commission does not charge fees for the registration and inspection of NHS bodies.

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average charge levied by the Care Quality Commission was for inspections of a *(a)* hospice and *(b)* district hospital in the latest period for which figures are available. [319911]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Care Quality Commission is the new integrated regulator for health and adult social care from 1 April 2009.

We have been informed by the Care Quality Commission that the average annual fee charged for a hospice for the period 1 April 2009 to 31 January 2010 is £1,629.

For 2009-10, the Care Quality Commission does not charge fees for the registration and inspection of national health service bodies.

Care Quality Commission: Dorset

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Care Quality Commission charged organisations in Dorset for repeat inspections in the last 12 months. [319909]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Care Quality Commission is the new integrated regulator for health and adult social care from 1 April 2009.

We have been informed by the Care Quality Commission that it made no charges for repeat inspections of organisations in Dorset from 1 April 2009 to 31 January 2010.

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Care Quality Commission charged hospices in Dorset for inspections in the last 12 months. [319910]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Care Quality Commission is the new integrated regulator for health and adult social care from 1 April 2009.

We have been informed by the Care Quality Commission that the total annual fees it charged hospices in Dorset from 1 April 2009 to 31 January 2010 was £5,663.

Dementia: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial support was allocated by Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust for *(a)* the treatment of and *(b)* research related to dementia in each of the last five years. [318900]

Phil Hope: The information is not available in the format requested. The Department allocated £150 million to the national health service over 2009-10 and 2010-11 to transform services for people with dementia. However, the Department does not break down primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocations by policies, at either the national or local level. Such information as is available about revenue allocations to PCTs in Gloucestershire is shown in the following table.

It is for PCTs to decide their priorities for investment locally taking into account both local priorities and the 'NHS Operating Framework'.

Revenue allocations to PCTs in Gloucestershire from 2004-05

Gloucestershire PCT	*Allocation (£ million)*
2004-05	515.9
2005-06	561.9
2006-07	669.7
2007-08	731.2
2008-09	771.1
2009-10	825.9
2010-11	868.5

Notes:

1. Allocations are not always comparable between years because of changes to baseline funding.

2. Allocations from 2006-07 include primary medical services funding.

3. PCTs were informed of their revenue allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 in December 2008.

Source:

Finance, Planning and Allocations Division, Department of Health

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department plans to spend on television advertisements in 2009-10. [318924]

Phil Hope: The Department's estimated expenditure on television advertising for the 2009-10 financial year is £26,150,885. This is a provisional figure until records are fully audited at the end of the financial year.

The figures do not include recruitment or classified advertising costs. Advertising spend is defined as covering only media spend (inclusive of agency commissions but excluding production costs, Central Office of Information commission and VAT). All figures exclude advertising rebates and audit adjustments and therefore may differ from Central Office of Information official turnover figures.

The Department evaluates its campaigns using a combination of robust techniques that help to identify exactly what works. In 2009, Smokefree marketing has driven over 715,000 four-week quits. Modelling has also demonstrated a one-year return on marketing investment (ROMI) of an additional £1.20 for every pound of public money spent and a three-year return of £3.84 for every pound spent. The Change4Life campaign has received nearly two million responses and over 400,000 families have signed up. It has been estimated that an additional 10,000 people have been given early access to care as a result of the Department's stroke (Act FAST) campaign in 2009-10, reducing the threat of death and disability.

Derriford Hospital

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether mechanisms are in place at Derriford Hospital to ensure that patients who require remedial surgery following full minimally invasive oesophagectomy procedures are operated on by the same surgeons who carried out the initial surgery; [319162]

(2) whether he has made an assessment of the level of post-operative care following full minimally invasive oesophagectomy procedures undertaken at Derriford Hospital following the transfer of the upper gastro-intestinal cancer unit from the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital to Derriford Hospital; [319163]

(3) whether each of the trials that was being carried out at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital prior to the move of the upper gastro-intestinal cancer unit from the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital to Derriford Hospital is continuing. [31[illegible]13]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: These are matters for the local national health service. I have therefore written to the chair of the South West Peninsula Cancer Network and asked him to write to the hon. Member.

Diabetes

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the national health service of treating patients with diabetes in the last 12 months. [319790]

Ann Keen: Estimates of national health service expenditure on diabetes are available from the programme budgeting returns. The following table shows the estimated gross level expenditure for diabetes from 2004-05 to 2008-09 in England. These figures include primary care trust, Department of Health, strategic health authority and special health authority expenditure. It should be noted that these figures do not include prevention expenditure or general medical services/primary medical services expenditure. This is considerable, but we cannot quantify it separately.

	Diabetes expenditure (£000)	*Department of Health gross expenditure (£000)*	*Diabetes as a proportion of gross expenditure (percentage)*
2004-05	687,402	71,922,179	1.0
2005-06	866,000	80,185,241	1.1
2006-07	1,043,021	84,193,209	1.2
2007-08	1,151,183	93,183,426	1.2
2008-09	1,262,066	96,814,987	1.3

Health Centres: Christchurch

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects his Department to complete the disposal of its interest in the former health centre at Saxon Square, Christchurch. [320073]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Following the decision of the local national health service trust not to utilise the property and the landlord's decision not to accept a surrender of the lease, agreement is being finalised with the landlord on the extent of repair works to be undertaken in compliance with a previously served repairs notice. Once agreement is reached, the works will be undertaken.

Consideration is also being given to potential alternative uses for the property before marketing but this requires the formal agreement of the landlord to vary the terms of the lease and discussions are in hand with the landlord.

The availability of the property has for some time been included on the Electronic Property Information Mapping Service (e-PIMS)—the central database of Government civil estate managed by the Office of Government Commerce.

Health Services: Isle of Man

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 56W, on health services: Isle of Man, how many individuals have their details on the dataset; and how much he estimates it would cost to redact personal information from the dataset. [319987]

Gillian Merron: Around 2,800 individual patient records are contained within the dataset. To print, sort, redact and check the records would incur disproportionate costs.

Health Services: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on NHS healthcare in Milton Keynes in each year since 1997. [319006]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table shows the amount spent on health care services by Milton Keynes primary care trust from 2002-03 to 2008-09, which are the only years for which information is available by organisation.

Milton Keynes PCT: Purchase of health care, 2002-03 to 2008-09

£000

	Health care			
	Primary	*Secondary*	*Other*	*Total*
2008-09	77,346	210,309	476	288,131
2007-08	72,133	197,874	427	270,434
2006-07	70,386	174,667	316	245,369
2005-06	62,660	192,761	259	255,680
2004-05	56,529	167,612	342	224,483
2003-04	51,109	145,808	140	197,057
2002-03	38,034	140,139	388	178,561

Source: Audited summarisation schedules of Milton Keynes PCT

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses were employed in Milton Keynes in each year since 1997. [319007]

Ann Keen: The information requested is contained within the following table.

All doctors and qualified nursing staff in Milton Keynes: as at 1997 to 200[illegible]

Numbers (headcount)

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust												
All Doctors[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	176	178	186	191	201	215	228	224
Of which:												
Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS) Doctors[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	51	49	62	62	65	67	75	74
General Practitioners (GPs)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	125	129	124	129	136	148	153	150
Total Qualified Nursing Staff	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	446	471	465	496	535	516	545	506
Of which:												
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	n/a	n/a	n/a	377	383	380	409	448	421	450	451	

All doctors and qualified nursing staff in Milton Keynes: as at 1997 to 2008

Numbers (headcount)

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
GP Practice nurses	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	69	88	85	87	87	95	95	55
All doctors[1]	39	39	51	48	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Of which:												
HCHS doctors[1]	39	39	51	48	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
GPs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total qualified nursing staff	357	374	385	365	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Na/
Of which:												
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	357	374	385	365	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
GP practice nurses	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust												
All doctors[1]	147	153	168	169	173	181	205	239	283	275	279	301
Of which:												
HCHS doctors[1]	147	153	168	169	173	181	205	239	283	275	279	301
GPs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total qualified nursing staff	573	606	671	804	818	829	824	1009	875	908	756	832
Of which:												
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	573	606	671	804	818	829	824	1,009	875	908	756	832
GP practice nurses	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] Data excludes Medical HPCAs, most of which are GPs working part-time in hospitals

1. Data as at 30 September each year
2. Data are shown here by organisations in operation at the time
3. GP Practice data prior to 2001 is not available in the Milton Keynes area due to the regional division of predecessor organisations
4. *Data Quality*

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* the Government paid the Isle of Man government and *(b)* the Isle of Man government paid the Government for the cost of emergency admission to hospital and treatment under the reciprocal health agreement in each of the last 10 years for which information is available. [319988]

Gillian Merron: Under the current bilateral health care agreement, no monies change hands for emergency treatment provided in the United Kingdom, or the Isle of Man. An annual allocation (currently £2.8 million) is provided by the UK Government, to the Isle of Man Government, for additional elective treatment within the national health service.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provisions will govern the exemption from charging of certain categories of UK residents admitted to hospital to receive emergency hospital treatment in the Isle of Man following the ending of the reciprocal health agreement between the UK and the Isle of Man; and if he will make a statement. [319989]

Gillian Merron: The exemptions that apply under the National Heath Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, apply only to those accessing the national health service. As such, the exemptions do not extend to United Kingdom nationals accessing other health care systems, including the Isle of Man. Accident and emergency treatment will continue to be provided free of charge both in the UK and the Isle of Man.

Health Visitors: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors were employed in Leeds, North-West constituency in each year since 1997. [319511]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of health visitors in the Leeds Primary Care Trust (PCT) area as at 30 September each year.

	Headcount
2002	165
2003	181
2004	213
2005	195
2006	175
2007	166
2008	158

Notes:

1. Leeds PCT was formed in October 2006 from a complete merger of Leeds West PCT, Leeds North East PCT, East Leeds PCT, South Leeds PCT and Leeds, North-West PCT. Figures prior to 2006 are an aggregate of these predecessor organisations. It is not possible to map work force figures for these organisations prior to the creation of the PCTs in 2002.

2. Data Quality: the Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Hip Replacements

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hip replacement operations have been cancelled at NHS hospitals in the last 12 months. [318926]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The number of cancelled operations for hip replacement is not collected centrally.

The Department collects data on the number of operations cancelled on the day of admission or day of operation, for non-clinical reasons, on a quarterly basis. However, these are not broken down to treatment function/specialty level. The latest published data can be found at the following web address:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_112182

Home Care Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 470-1W, on care ho[illegible] finance, whether the efficiency savings are the sa[illegible] those local authorities are required to find [illegible] contribute towards the cost of providing free personal care at home for people in the greatest need. [318339]

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 470-1W, on care homes: finance, whether the efficiency savings referred to are those which local authorities are required to find to contribute towards the cost of providing free personal care at home for people with the highest needs. [318893]

Phil Hope: Yes. The pre-Budget report announcement of £250 million efficiency savings from reducing variations in spend on residential care is an example of how savings can be made

> either to help meet the cost of providing free personal care at home for people in the greatest need, or to help meet wider pressures from demographic change.

Hospitals: Gardens

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of expenditure on gardening and landscaping at NHS hospitals in the last five years. [318925]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Department does collect information on grounds maintenance costs, but this is a much broader category. This information relates to the pay and non-pay costs involved in the upkeep and maintenance of the grounds, gardens and external paths of the organisation site. It includes labour costs for all directly employed and contract staff. The information for the last five years is provided in the table.

	Grounds and gardens maintenance costs (£)
2008-09	30,018,479
2007-08	26,812,963
2006-07	28,051,758
2005-06	25,812,801
2004-05	24,424,117

The information has been supplied by the national health service and has not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Inquiry

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to make an assessment of the report of the inquiry into Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust commissioned by his Department and chaired by Robert Francis QC; and if he will make a statement. [318981]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust inquiry's report was published on 24 February 2010. I refer the hon. Member to the oral statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 24 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 309-25.

Midwives: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number of midwives *(a)* employed and *(b)* required in (i) Chorley, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) the North West. [318894]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of qualified midwifery staff in the North West strategic health authority (SHA) area and Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS foundation trust as at 30 September 2008.

It is the responsibility of the national health service locally to plan, develop and improve health services according to the health care needs of their local populations and this includes ensuring the adequate provision of midwives.

Organisation	*Midwifery headcount*
North West SHA area	3,892
Of which:	
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS foundation trust	226

Notes:
1. September 2008 is the latest available data. September 2009 is due to be published at the end of March.
2. Data Quality: The Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Musgrove Park Hospital Taunton

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his most recent estimate is of the cost of the new surgical unit at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton; and what such estimate he had made in February 2009; [318935]

(2) what the cost to the public purse was of building work carried out at Musgrove Park Hospital in the last five years. [318936]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department holds information on the major capital investment schemes that have been completed at Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust in the last five years.

The new cancer centre at Musgrove Park hospital was completed in July 2009 with a capital value of £21 million. Minor works were completed in April 2008 with a capital value of £1.2 million. The cardio catheter laboratory was completed in August 2007 with a capital value of £6.6 million.

Details of proposals being developed by Trusts such as that for the new surgical unit are not held by the Department. This is a matter for Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to Rosalinde Wyke, Chair of Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, informing her of the hon. Member's inquiry. She will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

NHS: Construction

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health from which planned NHS building projects his Department has withdrawn support in the last 12 months. [319070]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an estimate of the revenue which accrued to the NHS from the treatment of private patients at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton in the last 12 months. [319417]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are informed by the chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) that in 2008-09 (the latest 12 month period for which audited data are available) the total income received by Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust from treating private patients was £1.82 million, which is calculated to 1.04 per cent. against its Private Patient Income Cap of 1.6 per cent.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments the NHS has made to *(a)* NHS-related charities and *(b)* NHS bodies as a result of the Icelandic banking collapse. [319538]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has been notified of two instances where payments were made by national health service bodies to support NHS organisations or related charities affected by the Icelandic banking collapse.

Firstly, the North West Strategic Health Authority forewent £6.5 million of its own capital funding in order to provide support to the Christie Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust cancer services development programme, after the trust lost a significant proportion of its investment funds following the collapse of the Icelandic bank, Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander.

Secondly, the nine primary care trusts from the South Central Strategic Health Authority have made a total of £1.5 million available to the Naomi House Children's Hospice Charity after it also lost deposits held in Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander.

The Department is not aware of any other similar instances where payments have been made.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are employed by primary care trusts in England in the direct provision of health services to patients. [318937]

Ann Keen: A table showing the number of staff by organisation type, including primary care trusts has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Parking

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was raised from *(a)* parking charges and *(b)* parking fines at car parks operated by NHS bodies in each of the last 12 months. [319032]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: These data are not collected centrally.

The management of national health service car parking is the responsibility of the NHS organisations locally. This includes the use of parking fines if the NHS consider it appropriate to reduce congestion and deter misuse of the facilities provided.

A consultation exercise on the provision of free car parking to NHS inpatient visitors and outpatients concluded on the 23 February 2010. The report analysing the responses will be published in due course.

NHS: Public Transport

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the effectiveness of public transport networks serving hospitals and GP surgeries; and if he will make a statement. [319333]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department links with the Department for Transport with regard to transport planning and the provision of supporting guidance for the national health service. Guidance document 'Health Technical Memorandum 07-03 Transport management and car parking' provides advice about effective transport management, emphasising the importance of collaboration with local authorities and public transport coordinators on a community strategic networking basis. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

Effective public transport networks to serve health care facilities, including general practitioner practices, are achieved through local discussion between transport providers, local authorities and local health care organisations. The effective provision, which is determined at local level, takes into account the availability of public transport networks in the required area. In addition, this may be achieved through the town planning system.

The Department has recently been engaged with Department for Transport to produce the 'Active Travel Strategy' (February 2010), which advocates that healthy activity such as walking and cycling should also be positive options to access health care facilities. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Sight Impaired

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the NHS Summary Care Record system can include information on the preferred alternative format for communication with blind or partially-sighted patients. [319065]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information in the summary care record (SCR) of patients who choose to have a SCR is initially extracted from the general practitioner's record. Information can then be added and updated by the treating clinician, with the patient's express permission, including any information which the clinician or the patient regard as relevant to management of the patient's health.

There is a section in the SCR for demographic information which provides for patients' communication preferences to be recorded, for example, in the case of blind or partially-sighted patients, large print, Braille or audio.

Nurses: Pay

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average salary of a nurse in the NHS was in the latest year for which information is available. [319536]

Ann Keen: The average salary for a nurse in the national health service in 2009 was £33,300.

Notes

In the context of this answer the term "Nurse in the NHS" has been interpreted as a qualified nurse.

Average earnings figure.*

Source:

* NHS Information Centre NHS Staff Earnings July-September 2009.

Nurses: Schools

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many (*a*) qualified and (*b*) other school nurses are employed in each (i) region and (ii) primary care trust; and how many such nurses were employed in each such area in 2004. [318941]

Ann Keen: A table containing the number of school nurses employed in each strategic health authority and primary care trust in 2004 and 2008 has been placed in the Library. Data for 2009 will be available when the annual workforce census is published on 25 March 2010.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of (*a*) secondary schools and (*b*) associated primary school clusters are served by a full-time school nurse. [319539]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Our child health strategy "Healthy Lives, Brighter Futures" (published February 2009) recognised the importance of school health services. In particular, that school health teams provide a key link between education and health services, providing guidance and support on a range of health-related issues.

The Healthy Child Programme, published in October 2009, will be of further assistance in determining the composition of school health teams, which will vary from locality to locality according to local needs and service configurations. In most cases, they will have school nurses at their core, working with other professionals and support staff. The latest available figures for the number of national health service employed nurses working in a school environment show an increase of over 50 per cent., from 2,409 in 2004 to 3,643 nurses in 2008.

Pyrazinamide and Streptomycin

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there are plans to license (*a*) pyrazinamide and (*b*) streptomycin for use in the UK. [318139]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) granted a marketing authorisation, to Merck Sharp and Dohme, for a product containing pyrazinamide alone. It is indicated for the treatment of patients with active tuberculosis.

However, the new owners of the product, Genus Pharmaceuticals Ltd., informed the MHRA in 2007 that they were not currently marketing this product in the United Kingdom.

There are no pending applications for other products containing pyrazinamide alone indicated for treatment of patients with tuberculosis.

The MHRA granted a marketing authorisation, to UCB Pharma Ltd., for a product containing streptomycin sulphate alone. This product is indicated for the treatment of patients with tuberculosis.

This product is supplied on a named patient basis in the UK.

There are no pending applications for other products containing streptomycin alone indicated for the treatment of patients with tuberculosis.

Schizophrenia: Drugs

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been undertaken of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Guideline on Schizophrenia, updated in March 2009, in respect of its compliance with *(a)* human rights and *(b)* mental capacity legislation relating to choice on whether to take medication. [319164]

Phil Hope: We have made no such assessment. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is an independent body and is responsible for ensuring that its guidance is compliant with relevant legislation.

Supranuclear Palsy

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group in each area have been (i) diagnosed with and (ii) treated for progressive supranuclear palsy in each of the last five years; [319759]

(2) whether he has made an estimate of the number of *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group in each area diagnosed with progressive supranuclear palsy who died in each of the last five years. [319761]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of people diagnosed with progressive supranuclear palsy is not collected centrally.

We have made no estimate of the number of people dying from progressive supranuclear palsy.

Tranquillisers and Antidepressants

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* tranquillisers and *(b)* anti-depressants were prescribed (i) in total and (ii) per head in each primary care trust in England in each year since 2006; and what the net ingredient cost (A) in total and (B) per head was in each trust in each such year. [319334]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Tranquillisers are defined as all those items appearing in paragraph 4.1.2 'Anxiolytics' of the British National Formulary (BNF) and anti-depressants defined as those items appearing in section 4.3 'Antidepressant drugs' of the BNF.

In October 2006, there was a reorganisation of primary care trusts (PCTs) and the 303 PCTs became 152 with some being abolished, others continuing and new ones being created. It is therefore not possible to give figures per head for each PCT in 2006. They have therefore not been included in the response.

West Dorset General Hospitals Trust

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that West Dorset General Hospitals Trust *(a)* improves its financial performance and *(b)* balances its budget; [320072]

(2) what discussions he had with the West Dorset General Hospitals Trust on his recent visit to Dorchester Hospital on the funding of redundancies. [320074]

Andy Burnham: I met with governors of the trust to hear first hand about its financial difficulties. The trust is working closely with the Department, the strategic health authority and Monitor to develop a robust plan for a sustainable financial recovery.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* name, *(b)* location and *(c)* score was of each of the 136 housing projects giving funding under round one of the Kickstart Building for Life. [318728]

John Healey: The names and locations of successful round one Kickstart schemes are available on HCA's website:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/public/documents/kickstart-schemes-approve%20261109%20projects%20by%20region.pdf

HCA and CABE will produce detailed reports on all aspects of the delivery of Kickstart rounds one and two, including design, following the conclusion of the round two assessment process. These reports will include details of the design assessments undertaken on each scheme.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been sold to first-time buyers under the First Time Buyers Initiative since its inception. [319273]

Mr. Ian Austin: Provisional estimates are that there were 2,350 homes sold to first-time buyers under the First Time Buyers Initiative since its inception to September 2009.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many sales there have been under the Rent to Homebuy scheme since its inception. [319275]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 265W.

Affordable Housing: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what allocations have been made to each region by the Homes and Communities Agency under the *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy, *(c)* Open Market HomeBuy, *(d)* First Time Buyer's Initiative, *(e)* Social Homebuy and *(f)* Rent to HomeBuy schemes for (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2008-11. [318720]

John Healey: The following table shows allocations made through the Homes and Communities Agency for 2009-10 and 2008-11 both to the end of January 2010 by region for HomeBuy Direct; New Build HomeBuy; Open Market HomeBuy; First Time Buyer's Initiative; Social HomeBuy and Rent to HomeBuy. The allocations shown are in respect of those made each year for 2008-09 and 2009-10 to end of January 2010 respectively. Allocations for 2010-11 will not be made until the next financial year. The 2009-10 allocations are included in the overall 2008-11 figures.

		Allocation (£ million)	
Sub-product type	*Region*	*2008-11*	*2009-10*
(a) HomeBuy Direct	Eastern	55.60	55.60
	East Midlands	35.66	35.66
	London	20.00	20.00
	North East	33.13	33.13
	North West	50.14	50.14
	South East	53.54	53.54
	South West	51.37	51.37
	West Midlands	42.69	42.69
	Yorkshire and the Humber	45.62	45.62
	Total	387.75	387.75
(b) New Build HomeBuy	Eastern	33.79	10.21
	East Midlands	21.15	2.43
	London	302.78	128.74
	North East	5.85	1.86
	North West	47.72	2.65
	South East	76.75	24.21
	South West	38.54	18.91
	West Midlands	36.24	6.49
	Yorkshire and the Humber	21.09	3.22
	Total	583.91	198.72
(c) Open Market HomeBuy	Eastern	67.18	30.71
	East Midlands	10.57	2.50
	London	123.49	53.08
	North East	1.07	0.43
	North West	8.86	2.38
	South East	116.24	51.21
	South West	38.22	13.80
	West Midlands	18.40	7.10
	Yorkshire and the Humber	13.10	4.84
	Total	397.11	166.04
(d) First Time Buyer's Initiative	Eastern	26.85	0.00
	East Midlands	11.49	0.00
	London	75.39	0.00
	North East	9.20	0.00
	North West	27.70	0.00
	South East	82.86	[illegible].00
	South West	36.08	0.00
	West Midlands	18.49	0.00
	Yorkshire and the Humber	9.99	0.00
	Total	298.04	0.00
(e) Social Homebuy	Eastern	1.16	0.00
	East Midlands	0.17	0.00
	London	8.77	0.11
	North East	0.51	0.00
	North West	1.28	0.02
	South East	1.29	0.00
	South West	0.90	0.01
	West Midlands	0.83	0.01
	Yorkshire and the Humber	0.30	0.05
	Total	15.22	0.19
(f) Rent to HomeBuy	Eastern	27.64	5.21
	East Midlands	21.68	7.23
	London	176.31	84.98
	North East	1.74	0.75
	North West	23.31	7.93
	South East	13.19	3.96
	South West	22.24	1[illegible].57
	West Midlands	10.58	3.98
	Yorkshire and the Humber	16.95	10.63
	Total	313.63	139.24

Affordable Housing: Newcastle upon Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which 33 sites were presented for consideration to the Homes and Community Agency as sites for new and affordable housing development by Newcastle upon Tyne City Council; [318824]

(2) how much funding has been provided to each of the projects in Newcastle upon Tyne supported by the *(a)* Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* National Affordable Homes Programme in the last 12 months. [318826]

John Healey: It is not clear which 33 sites are referred ~~to in the~~ question and therefore we are unable to provide this information.

Investment by the Homes and Communities Agency in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in the 12 months to 31 December 2009 broken down by programme is as follows:

Programme	*Spend for 12 months to 31 December 2009 (£)*
National Affordable Housing Programme	6,320,000
Property and Regeneration	288,835
Places for change	426,940
Housing Market Renewal Grant[1]	44,828,347
Total	51,844,122

[1] This is spend for the Newcastle Gateshead Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder. It has not been possible to disaggregate the spend between the two areas. In addition, £48.6 million Decent Homes ALMO funding has been allocated to Newcastle-Upon-Tyne for 2009-10 financial year. This funding, while not direct Homes and Communities Agency funding, is managed and monitored by the Homes and Communities Agency on behalf of Ministers.

Association of Home Information Pack Providers: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has provided *(a)* directly and *(b)* by indirect means to the Association of Home Information Pack Providers since that body's inception. [319280]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department has not provided any financial assistance to the Association of Home Information Pack Providers, either directly or indirectly.

Bullying: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many formal complaints of *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment were submitted by staff of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister during the period of its existence as a Government Department. [319227]

Barbara Follett: According to the information available to us, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister received 13 formal complaints of bullying and harassment from its staff during the period of the Department's existence. Bullying and harassment were classified as one issue by that Department.

Community Development: Roehampton

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding was granted under the *(a)* Working Neighbourhoods Fund, *(b)* Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, *(c)* Deprived Area Fund, *(d)* Local Enterprise Growth Initiative, *(e)* New Deal for Communities, *(f)* Neighbourhood Management Pathfinders, *(g)* New Communities Fund, *(h)* European Regional Development Fund, *(i)* Inspiring Communities Grant, *(j)* Connecting Communities, *(k)* Single Regeneration Budget, *(l)* Land and Property Programme and *(m)* other regeneration programmes to Roehampton ward in each year since 2000. [318608]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 10 February, *Official Report*, column 1027W, which details funding for these programmes by each local authority in London.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities will be able to negotiate flexible Community Infrastructure Levy rates on a site-by-site basis to assist particular regeneration schemes. [319138]

Mr. Ian Austin: CIL Regulations provide that charging schedules may include differential rates where they can be justified either on the basis of the economic viability of development in different parts of the authority's area or by reference to the economic viability of different types of development within their area.

As an additional measure, the CIL regulations also provide for an exceptional cases procedure, through which (subject to certain conditions) individual developments could apply for a reduced CIL liability where its payment would render the development unviable. It will be for charging authorities to decide whether to permit such a procedure in their area and each request will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Community Infrastructure Levy will be optional for local planning authorities. [319199]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is provided for by sections 205 to 225 of the Planning Act 2008. Section 206(1) of this Act states that "a charging authority may charge CIL in respect of development of land in its area". As potential charging authorities, local planning authorities will therefore be able to choose whether they decide to charge CIL in their area or not, to meet local infrastructure needs.

Council Housing: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much was allocated to the local authority new build fund from the *(a)* Budget 2009 announcements and *(b)* Housing Pledge; [318718]

(2) how much was allocated to the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme from the *(a)* programmes announced in Budget 2009 and *(b)* Housing Pledge. [318722]

John Healey: The local authority new build, and the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme are programmes announced as part of the housing stimulus package. Funding levels were announced at Budget 2009 and in the Housing Pledge, part of the Prime Minister's Building Britain's Future announcement. The budgets for each programme are published in the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) corporate plan 2009-10-2010-11.

Council Housing: Property Transfer

b Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for munities and Local Government how many es from local authority housing stock in Castle were disposed of in each year since 1997. [318084]

r. Ian Austin: Information on disposals of local ority stock can be estimated from information on to buy, other local authority sales, large-scale tary transfers and small scale transfers to registered l landlords, and demolitions.

formation on all sales of local authority stock ding large-scale voluntary transfers and small scale fers to registered social landlords, right-to-buy and other local authority sales) is collected from authorities on the Quarterly Housing Monitoring return. This information is published to local ority district level on the Communities and Local ernment website in table 648:

p://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/
9863.xls

formation on local authority demolitions is reported cal authorities, for the financial year, on the Business Statistical Appendix (BPSA) return. BPSA data ns since 2001-02 are available at:

p://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/
usingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/localauthorityhousing/
aforms/

Council Housing: Standards

hn Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for munities and Local Government if he will issue ance to local authorities on *(a)* the fitting of idual thermostats for radiators under the Decent es Programme and *(b)* individual billing of ng for tenants in council housing served by munal heating systems. [318953]

r. Ian Austin *[holding answer 26 February 2010]:* Department will shortly be publishing, jointly with Department for Energy and Climate Change, the sehold Energy Management Strategy setting out iovernment's proposals to improve the energy efficiency ur housing stock to reduce carbon emissions. This be supported by a range of guidance on which we be consulting in due course.

hn Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for munities and Local Government what recent ssions he has had with local authorities on costs ng from the replacement of communal heating ms in council housing stock dating from the 1980s. [318954]

r. Ian Austin *[holding answer 26 February 2010]:* e have been no policy discussions between local orities and the Department for Communities and l Government regarding the costs involved in replacing munal heating systems.

hn Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for munities and Local Government what guidance Department has issued to local authorities on the mal efficiency of windows fitted during works led through the Decent Homes Programme. [318955]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 26 February 2010]:* The Decent Homes standard does not include any specification for the thermal efficiency of windows a landlord may decide to fit as part of their local decent homes programme. The standard is a minimum standard that homes must not fall below not a standard that work should be completed to.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who is responsible for inspecting works conducted on council housing stock to ensure compliance with the decent homes standard; and what mechanisms exist for appeals from residents where works are determined not to have reached the required standard. [318956]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 26 February 2010]:* A local authority is responsible for ensuring that their social housing stock does not fall below the Decent Homes standard and the works they do comply with the standard. If a council tenant considers that their home falls below the standard they should make a formal complaint to the local authority. If, after this process, they consider the local authority has treated them unfairly then they may make a complaint to the local government ombudsman.

Counsellors: Allowances

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much all local authorities spent on allowances and expenses for counsellors in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [319263]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We do not collect or report on allowances paid to local authority members, which are matters for each council to decide, having regard to the recommendations of their independent remuneration panel. Councils are accountable for their decisions on allowances to their electorate and are required to make publicly available each year a statement of the amount of allowances paid to each member.

Departmental Meetings

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have had with representatives of (i) the Association of Home Information Pack Providers, (ii) Luther Pendragon and (iii) Quintus Public Affairs in the last 12 months. [319281]

Mr. Ian Austin: I met with representatives from the Association of Home Information Pack Providers (AHIPP) on 25 November 2009. AHIPP were also represented at a meeting of home buying and selling stakeholders that I chaired on 15 December 2009. I am not aware of any meetings with Luther Pendragon or Quintus during the last 12 months.

Disadvantaged: Roehampton

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the level was of each indicator of deprivation in Roehampton ward as measured by the Index of Multiple Deprivation in each year since 2000. [318607]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The score and rank in each domain for the Roehampton ward are provided in the table where a rank of one would represent the most deprived ward and a rank of 8,414 would represent the least deprived ward.

Roehampton Ward	
Index of Multiple Deprivation Score	40.05
Rank of Index of Multiple Deprivation	1,116
Income Domain Score	34.61
Rank of Income Domain	897
Employment Domain Score	17.49
Rank of Employment Domain	1,123
Health Domain Score	.89
Rank of Health Domain	1,431
Education Domain Score	.56
Rank of Education Domain	2,203
Housing Domain Score	1.33
Rank of Housing Domain	641
Access Domain Score	-.59
Rank of Access Domain	6,312
Child Poverty Index Score	66.74
Rank of Child Poverty Index	206

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1135W, on the Audit Commission: internet, what timetable has been set for publishing online the names of those councils which operate fortnightly refuse collections; and if he will request the Audit Commission to undertake a statistical analysis of the dataset in respect of the relationship between public satisfaction with waste collection services and the frequency of refuse collection services. [319125]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I will ask the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 2 March 2010:

Information has now been received from DEFRA on the frequency of household waste collection. The Commission is already undertaking a statistical analysis of this data and comparing it with the published information included with the place survey on satisfaction with waste collection. Once the analysis has been completed for every district in England the information will be made publicly available on the Oneplace website:

http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk/Pages/default.aspx

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Driveways: Planning Permission

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken to expedite the implementation of new planning regulations to allow the resurfacing of driveways with permeable paving materials without the requirement for planning permission. [318502]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government's online service for planning, the planning portal, includes advice and guidance on how to implement the new planning regulations which allow surfacing of driveways with permeable paving materials. Similar advice together with the regulations is also on the departmental website. Ultimately it is for local authorities to encourage householders to make use of permeable materials, especially where there are particular risks of surface water run off leading to flooding. Local authorities are also responsible for enforcement where the new regulations are not observed.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will publish a copy of the assessment undertaken for the Housing Act 2004 on whether the Act's provisions on empty dwelling management orders were compatible with the right to property in the European Convention on Human Rights. [319043]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Housing Act 2004 is fully compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights as stated by Lord Rooker when introducing the provisions during the passage of the Bill.

Energy Performance Certificates

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many actions for non-compliance with energy performance certificates had been issued to landlords in the public sector by training standards officers on the latest date for which figures are available. [319482]

Mr. Ian Austin: No information is collected centrally about the number of penalty notices that have been issued by trading standards officers for non-compliance with the requirements of the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/991).

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many display energy certificates for public buildings were recorded with the Landmark Agency in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [319771]

Mr. Ian Austin: The number of display energy certificates (DEC) for public buildings recorded on the DEC register operated by Landmark Information Group Ltd in *(a)* 2008 is 12,832; and *(b)* 2009 is 27,379.

Exeter and Devon (Structural Changes) Order 2010

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 26 of the Explanatory Memorandum to the Exeter and Devon (Structural Changes) Order 2010, (1) for what reason the 600 performance items have not been incorporated into the National Indicator Set; [319308]

(2) what each of the 600 performance items requested by the Government and inspectorates is; and what each of the 200 indicators referred to in his Department's press release of 20 January 2010 is. [319309]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The reference to 600 performance items is from a research document "Mapping the Local Government Performance Landscape." The research was commissioned by DCLG, carried out by PricewaterhouseCoopers and published in July 2006. We do not hold the data which underpinned the research. The findings of the research is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/151585.pdf

The 2006 Local Government White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities" committed to establishing a new local performance framework to replace the performance landscape of the time and streamline the separate performance arrangements at the local level. This new local performance framework was introduced from April 2008.

The press release referring to the National Indicator Set, is one element of the new local performance framework. The 2006 Local Government White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities" committed to establishing a single set of indicators of around 200 indicators measuring national priority outcomes delivered by local authorities working alone or in partnership. The National Indicator Set was introduced from April 2008 and currently contains 188 indicators. Further detail on the National Indicator Set is available at:

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/localgov/audit/nis/pages/default.aspx

Fire Services: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any fire authorities beside London have entered into contracts to provide fire cover in the event of industrial action according to records held by *(a)* the Chief Fire Adviser, *(b)* Firebuy and *(c)* the Fire Service College. [319297]

Mr. Malik: The Office of the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser, Firebuy and the Fire Service College have no record of any fire and rescue authorities, other than London, which have entered into contracts with third parties to provide fire cover during industrial action.

Floods: Gardens

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 812W, on floods: gardens, if he will place in the Library a copy of the research report on permeable and impermeable surfacing. [319316]

Mr. Ian Austin: The research report 'Understanding permeable and impermeable surfaces' was published on 14 September 2009. It can be accessed on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/permeablesufacesreport.pdf

I have arranged for a copy of the report to be placed in the Library of the House.

Government Office for London: Expenditure

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 634W, on Government Offices for the Regions: procurement, how much the Government Office for London spent on *(a)* Digby Trout Restaurants, *(b)* Marks and Spencer and *(c)* The Peace Alliance; and (i) on what dates and (ii) for what purpose that expenditure was incurred. [319366]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Details of the Government Office for London's procurement are below. All costs relate to 2008-09.

Company	*Invoice date*	*Purpose of Expenditure*	*Cost (£)*
Digby Trout Restaurants	3 July 2008	Conference refreshments	1,274.88
Marks and Spencer (Lunch to Go)	April 2008 to March 2009	Refreshments for external meetings	882.29
The Peace Alliance	18 March 2008	Support the charitable London Peace Awards	500.00
Total			2,657.17

Government Office for the East of England: Expenditure

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 634W, on Government Offices for the Regions: procurement, how much the Government Office for the East of England paid to the Cambridge Hog Roast Company; on what dates; and for what purpose. [319129]

Ms Rosie Winterton: GO-East paid £920 to the Cambridge Hog Roast Company to supply catering at an event involving all staff at the Government office, held at the Cass Centre in Cambridge on the afternoon of 9 July 2008. Reflecting the changing role of the organisation, the event was held to give staff the opportunity to learn more about each other's work and share examples of their achievements.

Government Office for the South West: Expenditure

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 634W, on Government Offices for the Regions: procurement, how much the Government Office for the South West spent on Lyngford House in 2008-09; on what dates the venue was hired; for what purposes the venue was hired; and how many officials attended on each occasion. [319329]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government office for the south-west spent £816.50 on Lyngford House in 2008-09 for development sessions for 11 senior (Grade 6) staff. Sessions took place on 19 September 2008 and 12 January 2009.

Government Offices for the Regions: Expenditure

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much programme expenditure was directed through each Government Office in the last year for which figures are available. [319219]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 485-86W.

Government Offices for the Regions: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has contributed to the *(a)* administrative and *(b)* programme expenditure of each regional Government Office in each year since 2003; and what the equivalent forecast figures are for (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [319034]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The contributions from Communities and Local Government to the Government offices administrative budget are as follows:

	£
2003-04	55,950,000
2004-05	57,290,000
2005-06	60,060,000
2006-07	55,980,000
2007-08	57,013,000
2008-09	55,780,000
2009-10	63,537,000
2010-11	48,405,000
2011-12	[1]—

[1] Not yet determined

Programme expenditure which passes through the Government office network remains the responsibility of the Secretaries of State for the individual sponsor Departments and is accounted for by those Departments so a full picture of programme funding could be identified only at a disproportionate cost.

Government Offices for the Regions: Mass Media

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Government Office in each region has spent on media monitoring services in each of the last five years; and what companies were used by each office. [319217]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In the past, a number of Government Offices have taken media monitoring contracts to inform their role, including provision of regional intelligence to Whitehall Departments.

The means of doing this has varied between in house and use of contracted services. As of this year (2009-10) following a review of GO communications activity, there has been one media monitoring contract with TNS Media Monitoring Services which covers the whole GO Network. That contract operates from 2 June 2009 to 31 March 2010 with a total cost of £ 110,000 paid for by the Network centrally.

Media monitoring providers for Government Offices in the last five years

GO	*Year*	*Provider*	*Costs (£)*
GO East	2005-06	Records archived and unavailable	0
	2006-07	Central Office of Information (COI)	[1]6,500
	2007-08	TNS Media Monitoring Services	[1]3,000
	2008-09	TNS Media Monitoring Services[2]	—
GO North East	2005-06	COI	5,499
	2006-07	COI	[1]3,000
	2007-08	COI	[1]3,000
	2008-09	TNS Media Monitoring Services[2]	—
GO London	2006-09	Meltwater News	5,360.41
GOYH	2005-06	—	n/a
	2006-07	COI	n/a
	2007-08	COI	16,450
	2008-09	TNS Media Monitoring Services[2]	12,885.05
GOEM	2005-06	—	0
	2006-07	—	0
	2007-08	—	0
	2008-09	TNS Media Monitoring Services[2]	—
GOSW	2005-06	COI	8,483.55
	2006-07	COI	29,553
	2007-08	COI	6,627
	2008-09	Meltwater News	[1]7,097
GONW	2005-06	—	0
	2006-07	—	0
	2007-08	—	0
	2008-09	TNS Media Monitoring Services[2]	—

n/a = Not available.

[1] Plus VAT

[2] In 2008-09 the Network contracted media monitoring services on behalf of five Government Offices at a cost of £28,793.38.

Government Offices for the Regions: Operating Costs

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the projected running costs of the Government Office in each region are for 2009-10. [319269]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The projected running costs of the Government Offices for the Regions in 2009-10 are as follows:

	(£)
GO East	8,899,400
GO East Midlands	7,856,600
GO London	11,051,100
GO North East	8,673,300
GO North West	11,051,400

	(£)
GO South East	10,139,500
GO South West	9,625,000
GO West Midlands	11,373,700
GO Yorkshire and Humber	9,049,700

Green Belt

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1655-6W, on the green belt, in which local authority areas regional spatial strategies have recommended a review of the areas which should be designated as green belt. [319323]

Mr. Ian Austin: Regional spatial strategies (RSS) do not express any planning policies which refer to specific sites (local authority areas); they identify broad locations, which may be located in a local authority area or cross a number of local authority boundaries.

Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with which organisations the *(a)* Homes and Communities Agency, *(b)* Homes and Communities Agency Academy and *(c)* Tenants Services Authority share offices; and where each such office is located. [316350]

John Healey: Information can only be provided where the Department or one of its arm's length bodies either (a) owns the freehold or (b) sub-lets space or (c) HCA/HCA Academy/TSA collocates with another body within the CLG group. Where a property is let by a private landlord, it is not for the Department to comment on their commercial arrangements. The available information is as follows:

Buildings with shared occupancy where HCA sub-lets space:

Central Business Exchange II, Milton Keynes

HCA
sub-let: Milton Keynes Economic Learning Partnership

110 Buckingham Palace road, London

HCA
sub-let: Environment Agency

Buildings with shared occupancy where CLG is the landlord or sub-lets space:

Belgrave Centre, Nottingham

HCA
Government Office
Care Quality Commission
Public Health
Food Standards Agency
National Offender Management Service
Equality and Human Right Commission
National Treatment Agency
CLG Secondees

Lateral, Leeds

HCA
HCA Academy
Government Office
DCLG Secondees (auditors)
National Offender Management Service
Equality and Human Right Commission
Highways Agency
National Treatment Agency
Regional Public Health
Contractors: Amey, Fujitsu

5 St Phillips Place, Birmingham

HCA
Youth Justice Board
Cabinet Office
Department of Health
Natural England
National Offender Management Service
National Treatment Agency
National TUS
Health Protection Agency

Rivergate House, Bristol

HCA
Government Office
HM Revenue and Customs
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency
Equality and Human Right Commission
National Treatment Agency
Food Standards Agency
Department of Health
National Offender Management Service
Youth Justice
Care Services Improvement Partnerships
Health Protection Agency

Eastbrook House, Cambridge

TSA
Government Office
Department of Health
National Treatment Agency
Equality and Human Rights Commission
East of England Regional Assembly
Regional Cities East
Care Service Improvement Partnerships
Regional Offender Management Office
HM Prison Service
National Probation
National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders
Youth Justice Board

Maple House (6th and 7th floor only)

HCA
TSA

The addresses for all HCA, HCA Academy and TSA offices are listed on their websites.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff are employed in each office of the *(a)* Homes and Communities Agency, *(b)* Homes and Communities Agency Academy and *(c)* Tenant Services Authority. [316412]

John Healey: Staff for The HCA and the HCA Academy are given in the table:

Location	*Total*
Ashford	21
Birmingham	33
Bristol	19
Buckingham Palace Road	81
Cambridge	26
Corby	11
Croydon	19
Exeter	25
Gateshead	108
Leeds	[1]69
Leicester	14
Manchester	17
Maple House	102
Milton Keynes	154
Nottingham	18
Palestra	44
Reading	17
Telford	15
Warrington	110
Wolverhampton	12
Graduate trainees	20
Total	935

[1] Of the 69 staff, 29 of these are Academy staff. This figure stands at 31 December 2009.

Staff for the TSA are as follows:

Location	*Total*
London	127
Manchester	36
Cambridge[1]	16
Leeds[1]	14
Leicester[1]	14
Wolverhampton[1]	4
Total[2]	211

[1] Staff in these locations work in office space belonging to either to Communities and Local Government or the Homes and Communities Agency.

[2] This total excludes the 40 TSA staff who work from home.

Households: Pensioners

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of households with a pensioner head of household in each tenure sector in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08, *(c)* 2008-09 and *(d)* 2009-10; and what proportion of such heads of household was an owner-occupier in each of those years. [319337]

Mr. Ian Austin: Estimates of the number and proportion of households with a pension age householder in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in the following tables. Data for 2009-10 is not yet available. The 2006-07 and 2007-08 estimates are based on data from the Survey of English Housing; data for 2008-09 is from the English Housing Survey.

Pension age[1] households by tenure, England

			Thousands of households
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Owner occupiers	4,127	4,231	4,526
Social renters	1,376	1,316	1,220
Private renters	304	239	294
All tenures	5,806	5,785	6,040

			Percentage of households
Owner occupiers	71	73	75
Social renters	24	23	20
Private renters	5	4	5
All tenures	100	100	100

[1] Male householder aged 65 or over, female aged 60 or over.

Source:

2006-07 and 2007-08 CLG Survey of English Housing

2008-09 CLG English Housing Survey

Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the average deposit required of a first time buyer. [318737]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department does not collect this information.

Housing: Construction

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing starts for housing of each type of tenure there were in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in the latest period for which figures are available. [318085]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table shows the number of new house building starts in Essex county and Castle Point in the December quarter of 2009.

	Local authority	
	Essex	*Castle Point*
Private enterprise	898	34
Registered social landlords	72	0
Local authority	0	0
Total	970	34

Source:

New build starts from P2 quarterly returns submitted by local authorities and the National House-Building Council to CLG.

Housing: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty properties have been brought back into housing stock by Coventry City Council in each year since 2005. [319464]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on the number of empty properties that have been brought back into housing stock by Coventry City Council in each year since 2005 is not held centrally.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* homes and *(b)* affordable homes have been built in Coventry since 1997. [319465]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on the number of house building completions and the number of affordable new build homes delivered in Coventry since 1997-98 is provided in the following table:

House building completions and additional affordable new build homes delivered: Coventry, 1997-98 to 2008-09

	House building completions	*Additional affordable new build homes delivered*[1]
1997-98	*	110
1998-99	*	160
1999-2000	*	150
2000-01	*	60
2001-02	*	100
2002-03	806	260
2003-04	*	70
2004-05	*	120
2005-06	519	120
2006-07	871	190
2007-08	1,128	490
2008-09	506	240

'*' = Denotes not available.

[1] Rounded to nearest 10.

Sources

1. House building completions = Local authority returns to CLG and National House Building Council

2. Affordable new build homes = Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS) and local authority returns to CLG

Not all affordable housing is delivered through new build completions, supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. In 2008-09 for example a total of 270 additional affordable homes were delivered in Coventry.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been built as a result of the Kickstart initiative in Coventry to date. [319466]

John Healey: Under round one of the Kickstart initiative, allocations of £973,000 were made to schemes in Coventry to provide a total of 111 homes all of which will be built by the end of March 2011.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many home repossessions there have been in Coventry in each year since 1997. [319467]

Mr. Ian Austin: There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA). However both are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole.

Housing: Energy

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the average Energy Performance Certificate rating of a house built to Code for Sustainable Homes Level *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2, *(c)* 3, *(d)* 4, *(e)* 5 and *(f)* 6. [319134]

Mr. Ian Austin: From the information we have available, the average Energy Performance Certificate rating of houses built to the Code for Sustainable Homes various levels are as follows:

Code Level	*Average EPC rating*
1	84
2	87
3	87
4	89
5	100
6	100

Housing: Finance

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to publish further proposals on reform of the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system; and if he will make a statement. [318918]

John Healey: In the consultation paper in July, I proposed a devolved system of responsibility and funding for council housing. On 16 December I announced that the responses show strong support for the principle of self-financing. I intend to make a further announcement in the next few weeks which will describe the progress we have made on self-financing, set-out more details of my proposals and provide a summary of responses to the consultation.

Housing: Regeneration

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder programme in each year since its establishment; and what the equivalent forecast figure is for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [319038]

Mr. Ian Austin: Housing Market Renewal allocations from the beginning of the programme to 2010-11 are given in the following table. 2011-12 falls outside the current settlement period and funding levels cannot therefore be confirmed at this stage.

HMR Pathfinder funding[1]	*£ million*
2003-04	51.0
2004-05	194.3
2005-06	303.2
2006-07	314.1
2007-08	405.6
2008-09	381.0
2009-10	346.0
2010-11	311.0

[1] An additional £23.4 million was allocated for HMR programme preparation 2002-04.

[2] Includes funding for the three areas of wider lower demand.

Housing: Sales

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any assessment has been made of the level of *(a)* gazundering and *(b)* gazumping in the housing market since the introduction of home information packs. [319264]

Mr. Ian Austin: No such assessment has been made. However, we intend to evaluate the effectiveness of HIPs by updating "The HIP Baseline Research Report", published in January 2007.

Housing: Standards

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of properties in (a) Essex and (b) Castle Point which (i) have been improved under the Decent Homes programme in each year of that programme and (ii) do not meet the Decent Homes standard. [318086]

Mr. Ian Austin: The only information we hold on all the stock is the annual number of non-decents. These are set out in the table.

Non-decent dwelling estimates—Essex 2001-09

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Castle Point	n/a	n/a	n/a	227	185	251	178	163	151
Essex	n/a	n/a	n/a	19,266	18,070	16,183	15,015	8,354	10,217

n/a = not available

Source:

Annual returns to Communities and Local Government

Housing: Thames Gateway

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been built in the Thames Gateway area since 2008; and what target has been set for the number of completions by 2016. [318717]

Mr. Malik: Since 2008 to 30 September 2009, the latest period for which data are available, 5550 new dwellings (new build and conversions) have been delivered in the Thames Gateway. Data for the fourth quarter of the calendar year will be available shortly.

The Thames Gateway Delivery Plan, published in November 2007, sets out an ambition to build 160,000 new homes between 2001 and 2016. From 1 April 2001 to 30 September 2009, 56,870 new dwellings (new build and conversions) have been added to the Thames Gateway housing stock (including the 5550 already referred to).

The recession has impacted on the start of construction of new dwellings in the Thames Gateway as elsewhere. But the Government remains confident its ambitions are still achievable in the longer term: indeed research has shown that the Thames Gateway has the potential not only to meet but to exceed these ambitions. In the meantime, CLG and HCA continue to make every effort to sustain delivery, through initiatives like Kickstart.

Landlords: Registration

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms will be used to ensure that landlords register on the proposed National Register of Landlords. [319212]

Mr. Ian Austin: Details of our proposals for the national register for landlords, including mechanisms for ensuring compliance are provided in the document which we published on 3 February—"The Private Rented Sector: Professionalism and Quality—Consultation. Summary of Responses and Next Steps."

Local Government: Partnerships

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an assessment of the effects of the Court of Appeal ruling in the case of Brent London Borough Council *v.* Risk Management Partners Limited on the entry of local councils into joint companies and partnerships other than mutual insurance bodies. [319312]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Provisions to enable best value authorities to set up and participate in mutual insurance arrangements were secured in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. We have made clear that we are committed to considering further the adequacy of local authority powers following the consultation on 'Strengthening Local Democracy' (July 2009) and the responses to it. The Government are interested in extending powers—subject to certain prudential restrictions—to deal both with the issues raised in the LAML case around councils giving guarantees and indemnities to each other and also to ensure greater clarity in relation to action to drive efficiency and cost savings and so secure best value. These will be taken forward at the first legislative opportunity. Such developments are intended to ensure that councils will have a broad range of powers on which to take action in their communities' interests, building on the best value duty. The well-being power remains as a power of first resort for councils acting in relation to the social, economic and environmental well-being of their areas. The White Paper 'Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government' (December 2009) and the pre-Budget report have committed to further exploring, subject to the overall fiscal position, what further finance mechanisms, powers and flexibilities could support local authorities to drive growth and innovation most effectively.

Local Government: Pensions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the speech made by the Minister for Local Government on 27 January 2010, how much and what proportion of the £1 billion a year savings to public service pension schemes from 2012-13 will accrue as a result of changes to the scope of the Local Government Pension Scheme. [319119]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The pre-Budget report estimated public service pension schemes will save £1 billion a year from 2012-13, and at least twice this amount over the long-term as part of reforms across public service pension schemes. These savings will flow from cap and share reforms impacting on the four main public service pension schemes provided for teachers, local authority employees, the NHS and the Civil Service. The proportion of savings to accrue to the Local Government Pension Scheme will reflect the results of its cap and share process programmed to follow the next Scheme-wide actuarial valuation exercise due on 31 March 2010.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the effect of stock market movements between March 2007 and March 2010 on the employee contributions towards the Local Government Pension Scheme to be required from local authorities from March 2011. [319304]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The next scheme actuarial valuation exercise takes place on 31 March 2010. It will assess all the relevant factors influencing the stability and solvency of the scheme, including the effect of recent stock market conditions and trends. New employer contribution rates to be determined by the valuation will apply from 1 April 2011 until 31 March 2014. Employee contributions are set separately by the relevant Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations.

Local Government: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1312-13W, on local government: redundancy pay, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the non-confidential written responses, including the record of the verbal briefing by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development. [319320]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Audit Commission plans to publish its report on severance pay made to local authority chief executives in mid-March. The consultation responses from organisations will be placed on the Commission's website when the report is published. Copies of all non-confidential responses will be placed in the Library of the House.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account his Department takes of the level of support from the relevant local authorities in considering the creation of a new unitary authority. [314985]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Secretary of State is now carefully considering the Boundary Committee's advice, all the representations he has received, including those of affected local authorities, and all other relevant information, before taking his statutory decisions about whether, to implement any of the unitary proposals before him, with or without modification, or to take no action on them.

Local Government: Statistics

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what datasets not in the National Indicator dataset are collected from local authorities by his Department's Executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies. [319245]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has three executive agencies; the Planning Inspectorate, Fire Service College, and Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre. None of these agencies collects datasets outside the national indicator dataset.

The Department does not hold information on datasets collected from local authorities by the Department's twenty associated non-departmental public bodies. Given the wide range of responsibilities and interactions those bodies have with local authorities, obtaining this information could only be achieved at disproportionate cost.

Local Government: Trespass

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his latest estimate is of the number of *(a)* squatters, *(b)* trespassers and *(c)* other unauthorised occupiers of local authority properties. [319110]

Mr. Ian Austin: No data are available centrally on the total number of squatters, trespassers or other unauthorised occupiers in local authority properties.

Migration Impact Fund

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* amount, *(b)* date of issuing and *(c)* purpose has been of each grant made under the Migration Impact Fund. [319035]

Mr. Malik: The Migration Impacts Fund is a UK-wide £35 million fund for each of the years 2009-10 and 2010-11. The overall purpose of the fund is to reduce the short term pressure of migration on local public services. Councils and other frontline services were asked through their local strategic partnerships to identify projects in their areas.

On the 9 July 2009 the Secretary of State announced the successful proposals for England. The specific purpose of each grant, the amount granted and the local services being supported are shown in the table which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have received funding from the Migration Impact Fund; how much each has received; and what methodology was used to allocate the funding. [319036]

Mr. Malik: The Migration Impacts Fund is allocated regionally; the amount each region receives is weighted towards the areas where international migration has had the greatest short-term impact. Local Strategic Partnerships in each region were invited to bid for projects the Migration Impacts Fund could support and these were assessed by their regional Government Office. The final decision was made by the Secretary of State.

The allocations to each local authority (per year) are set out in the following table:

Migration Impacts Fund—Local authority funding 2009-10 and 2010-11

Authority	*Total 2009-10*	*Total 2010-11*
Suffolk County Council	428,362	425,804
Peterborough City Council	354,832	337,030
Norfolk County Council	183,600	186,000
Cambridgeshire County Council	403,800	364,[illegible]
Breckland Council	220,000	30,000
Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	85,000	85,000

Migration Impacts Fund—Local authority funding 2009-10 and 2010-11

Authority	*Total 2009-10*	*Total 2010-11*
Hertfordshire County Council	264,000	277,000
Harlow Council	220,000	190,000
Luton Borough Council	272,500	317,000
Derby City Council	500,000	450,000
Leicester City Council	[illegible]	85,000
Lincolnshire County Council	854,000	875,000
Nottinghamshire County Council	210,000	10,000
Nottingham City Council	346,836	366,874
Haringey Council	297,275	324,350
Enfield Council	258,000	258,000
London Borough of Barnet	234,844	104,344
Camden Council	241,500	260,000
London Borough of Hackney	143,760	143,760
Islington Council	90,000	90,000
Westminster City Council	270,000	365,000
Merton Council	158,000	158,000
The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	102,441	102,441
London Borough of Lewisham	50,000	50,000
Sutton Council	43,636	23,636
London Borough of Croydon	150,000	150,000
London Borough of Lambeth	123,900	123,900
London Borough of Southwark	294,303	300,085
Wandsworth Borough Council	98,000	95,000
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	84,000	106,000
London Borough of Newham	179,000	98,000
London Borough of Redbridge	84,000	107,450
The City of London	217,000	217,000
London Borough of Tower Hamlets	60,600	60,600
Waltham Forest Council	138,137	43,000
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	63,000	38,000
Harrow Council	121,500	123,160
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	198,000	198,000
London Borough of Brent	133,000	154,000
London Borough of Ealing	350,000	350,000
London Borough of Hounslow	218,000	215,300
London Borough of Hillingdon	273,496	273,496
London Borough of Greenwich	145,000	145,000
London Borough of Havering	100,000	50,000
North Tyneside Council	111,400	111,400
Sunderland City Council	20,000	n/a
Hartlepool Borough Council	40,000	55,000
Gateshead Council	60,000	120,000
Newcastle City Council	181,166	108,648
Middlesbrough Council	74,095	122,675
Northumberland County Council	380,591	291,240
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	104,042	94,821
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council	87,000	87,000
Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council	105,000	n/a
Manchester City Council	550,000	550,000
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	156,550	161,247
Salford City Council	159,135	100,627
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council	55,000	5,000
Liverpool City Council	320,000	320,000
Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council	342,000	309,000
Wirral Borough Council	150,261	139,908
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	225,297	154,818
Blackpool Council	65,000	65,000
Lancashire County Council	258,964	135,410
Lancaster City Council	40,086	58,463
Cumbria County Council	250,000	237,000
East Sussex County Council	344,513	332,023
Brighton and Hove City Council	151,880	75,950
Reading Borough Council	221,750	n/a
Bracknell Forest Borough Council	15,000	15,000
Southampton City Council	480,000	480,000
Slough Borough Council	490,000	790,000
Portsmouth City Council	184,813	248,225
Kent County Council	352,000	257,000
Thanet District Council	70,000	90,000
Rushmoor Borough Council	115,000	75,000
Medway Council	391,103	300,074
Plymouth City Council	468,000	468,000
Cornwall Council	416,777	370,900
Swindon Borough Council	280,000	290,000
Devon County Council	459,700	330,000
Bournemouth Borough Council	290,000	190,000
Somerset County Council	314,094	551,045
Bristol City Council	739,982	763,965
Telford and Wrekin Council	183,500	61,500
Stoke on Trent City Council	85,443	78,732
Warwickshire County Council	288,006	175,000
Wychavon District Council	258,600	144,600
Birmingham City Council	362,550	347,050
Staffordshire County Council	275,000	275,000
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	250,000	250,000
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	124,999	125,000
East Staffordshire Borough Council	75,000	75,000

Migration Impacts Fund—Local authority funding 2009-10 and 2010-11

Authority	Total 2009-10	Total 2010-11
Stafford Borough Council	25,000	50,000
Wolverhampton City Council	54,770	50,045
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	153,644	89,484
North Lincolnshire Council	82,143	82,143
North Yorkshire County Council	118,400	118,652
City of Wakefield Metropolitan Borough Council	116,592	183,366
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	171,400	213,000
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	133,038	169,457
Calerdale Council	215,000	205,000
Sheffield City Council	400,000	400,000
Leeds City Council	375,000	375,000
Kirklees Council	225,000	225,000
Bradford Metropolitan Borough Council	425,000	325,000
Doncaster Council	150,000	150,000
Kingston Upon Hull City Council	150,000	150,000
Total	23,581,306	22,099,223

Mortgages

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the research report on UK mortgage arrears and repossessions commissioned by the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit from Professor John Muellbauer. [319290]

John Healey: The National Housing and Planning Advice Unit (NHPAU) is an independent advisory agency and publication is a matter for the NHPAU.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding he has provided to assist low income homeowners in the last 12 months. [318811]

Mr. Ian Austin: Over £1 billion has been made available to local authorities through the Regional Housing Pot over the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 to help improve house conditions for the most vulnerable households as part of CSR 07. £425 million was made available for 2009-10.

Multiple Occupation: Planning Permission

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the planned timetable is for introduction of secondary legislation to require houses in multiple occupation to have planning permission. [319120]

Mr. Ian Austin: We are aiming to make the Order amending the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, which will create the HMO use class, by 8 March 2010. This order does not need to be laid before Parliament.

We are also aiming to make the Order amending the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, which will make a change from a HMO to a C3 dwelling house permitted development, by 8 March and lay it before Parliament by 15 March 2010.

Both amendments will come into effect on 6 April 2010.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when prescription of statutory ports ended; and what the effect of ending it was on the rating of *(a)* port businesses and *(b)* port owners. [319438]

Barbara Follett: The ending of prescribed rating was enacted in the Local Government Act 2003 and the statutory port authorities (owners) were subject to conventional rating from 1 April 2005. The impact on the individual port authority was that their rateable value was ascertained by the same rules of assessment that apply to all other non-domestic property instead of by a prescribed formula.

The ending of prescribed rating had no effect on whether property occupied by other businesses within ports should be assessed separately for non-domestic rates. The principles concerning separate rateability where there is "exclusive occupation" and "paramount control" are long established. The leading case on the subject is a House of Lords decision from as far back as 1936—Westminster Council *v.* Southern Railway Company and W.H. Smith and Son.

The review of ports by the Valuation Office Agency is to ensure that all individual business properties within and outside ports are rated fairly to ensure that the burden of contributions to funding local government is shared fairly among businesses around the country.

The Government have listened to the concerns of businesses with significant and unexpected backdated bills, including some businesses within ports. It has legislated to enable such bills to be repaid over an unprecedented eight years rather than in a single instalment, helping affected businesses to manage the impact on their cash flows during the downturn by reducing the amount they are required to pay now by 87.5 per cent.

As at 8 October 2009, local authorities have reported that ratepayers occupying 221 properties within ports had fully discharged their backdated liability and ratepayers occupying a further 200 business properties within ports had been granted a schedule of payments.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for how long the cumulo system of paying business rates by businesses in port hereditaments was prolonged in 2000; by what means the system was ended; when notice was given to port companies paying under the system that it would be ended; and when it was ended. [319439]

Barbara Follett: The term "cumulo" (artificial hereditament) has been used to describe where properties (hereditaments) within the same occupation that under the normal rules of rating would be shown as individual entries in the rating lists are shown as a single entry in the rating list.

The ability to create an artificial port hereditament in this way is determined by regulation 5 of the Non-Domestic Rating Miscellaneous Provisions (2) Regulations 1989 (SI 1989/2303), which provides that in certain circumstances two or more hereditaments occupied by a statutory port authority to be a single hereditament to be liable for non-domestic rates where for example the properties are split by a river.

Whether a separate occupier within a port makes a contribution to business rates through their agreement with the port authority is a contractual matter between the occupier and the port authority. The cumulo is not and has never been a method for occupations that should be separately assessed for business rates to waive their liabilities.

The review of ports by the Valuation Office Agency is to ensure that all individual business properties within and outside ports are rated fairly to ensure that the burden of contributions to funding local government is shared fairly amongst businesses around the country.

The Government have listened to the concerns of businesses with significant and unexpected backdated bills, including some businesses within ports. It has legislated to enable such bills to be repaid over an unprecedented eight years rather than in a single instalment, helping affected businesses to manage the impact on their cash flows during the downturn by reducing the amount they are required to pay now by 87.5 per cent.

As at October 8 2009, local authorities have reported that ratepayers occupying 221 properties within ports had fully discharged their backdated liability and ratepayers occupying a further 200 business properties within ports had been granted a schedule of payments.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Valuation Office Agency began its work on separate assessment of port businesses in ports previously rated as a single hereditament; for what reasons the Agency decided to do this; and when the work was completed. [319444]

Barbara Follett: Valuation officers are required under Section 41 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 to maintain accurate rating lists. When they become aware that a change is needed, such as that at the ports, they must make the alteration and also specify the date from which the change should become effective for rates charging purposes.

The principles concerning separate rateability where there is "exclusive occupation" and "paramount control" are long established. The leading case on the subject is a House of Lords decision from as far back as 1936—Westminster Council *v.* Southern Railway Company and W.H. Smith and Son.

The VOA rated ports and properties within ports for the 2005 list based upon information supplied by the ports operators. A significant number of separate assessments appeared in the rating lists for individual port occupiers even before the following review was initiated.

It was only after the lists were compiled, through routine work to keep the lists up to date, it was found that the rating lists may not reflect all the separate properties within the ports. Port operators were advised by letter of the ports review and its background in May 2006. While the initial reviews have been completed, many port properties change over time and the VOA continue to make alterations to individual properties as part of its statutory duty to maintain the rating lists.

The review of ports by the Valuation Office Agency is to ensure that all individual business properties within and outside ports are rated fairly to ensure that the burden of contributions to funding local government is shared fairly among businesses around the country.

The Government have listened to the concerns of businesses with significant and unexpected backdated bills, including some businesses within ports. It has legislated to enable such bills to be repaid over an unprecedented eight years rather than in a single instalment, helping affected businesses to manage the impact on their cash flows during the downturn by reducing the amount they are required to pay now by 87.5 per cent.

As at 8 October 2009, local authorities have reported that ratepayers occupying 221 properties within ports had fully discharged their backdated liability and ratepayers occupying a further 200 business properties within ports had been granted a schedule of payments.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who decided that port companies hitherto part of one port hereditament should be separately assessed for business rates. [319445]

Barbara Follett: Valuation officers are required under Section 41 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 to maintain accurate rating lists. When they become aware that a change is needed, such as that at the ports, they must make the alteration and specify the date from which the change should become effective for rates charging purposes.

The principles concerning separate rateability, which is the rating rationale for the separate assessment of some properties within ports, where there is "exclusive occupation" and "paramount control" are long established. The leading case on the subject is a House of Lords decision from as far back as 1936—Westminster Council *v.* Southern Railway Company and W.H. Smith and Son.

The review of ports by the Valuation Office Agency is to ensure that all individual business properties within and outside ports are rated fairly to ensure that the burden of contributions to funding local government is shared fairly among businesses around the country.

The Government have listened to the concerns of businesses with significant and unexpected backdated bills, including some businesses within ports. It has legislated to enable such bills to be repaid over an unprecedented eight years rather than in a single instalment, helping affected businesses to manage the impact on their cash flows during the downturn by reducing the amount they are required to pay now by 87.5 per cent.

As at 8 October 2009, local authorities have reported that ratepayers occupying 221 properties within ports had fully discharged their backdated liability and ratepayers occupying a further 200 business properties within ports had been granted a schedule of payments.

Private Rented Housing

Mr. Curry: To ask the Secretary of State for ommunities and Local Government if the Minister of ate for Housing will meet representatives of First ack Solutions, formerly Social Homes, to discuss his epartment's plans for local letting agencies. [319485]

John Healey: I meet from time to time with a wide nge of representative bodies and other stakeholders ith an interest in our proposals for the future of the rivate rented sector, including the 'local lettings agency' oncept. I have no current plans to meet with individual ommercial companies, including First Track Solutions ormerly Social Homes), on this topic.

Public Bodies: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State r Communities and Local Government what the cost f the *(a)* Tenant Services Authority, *(b)* Homes and ommunities Agency, *(c)* Audit Commission and *(d)* tandards Board is expected to be in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [319037]

Barbara Follett: In relation to the cost of the Tenant ervices Authority I refer the hon. Member to the nswer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant happs) on June 16 2009, *Official Report*, column 202W.

The Standards Board's estimate of its annual budgets or 2009-2010, 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 can be found n their corporate plan, which is available on the Standard Board's website at:

www.standardsforengland.gov.uk

The planned budgets for the Homes and Communities gency are set out in its corporate plan for 2009-10 and 010-11, available on the Agency's website at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/publications

The Audit Commission's planned income from Central overnment grants as well as other sources for 2009-2010, 010-2011 and 2011-2012 is contained their draft strategic lan for 2010, available on the Audit Commission's ebsite at:

www.audit-commission.gov.uk

It should be noted that budgets for 2011-12 have not been formally set; it is expected that this will happen as part of a comprehensive spending review during 2010.

Regional Development Agencies

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 1 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 138W, on regional development agencies: mining, for what reasons representatives of the other regional development agencies were not invited to the English Coalfield forum meetings. [319796]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The full range of stakeholders involved in the Coalfields Forum is quite wide; it includes representatives from several regeneration organisations and Government Departments. In order to keep the number of participants at each Forum meeting to a manageable size, the decision was taken to invite Yorkshire Forward to participate on behalf of the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs). They are the only RDA with a dedicated coalfields team.

Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much collaborative procurement spending was directed through the Regional Efficiency Improvement Partnership in the latest period for which figures are available; [319112]

(2) how much central funding is planned to be provided to each Regional Efficiency Improvement Partnership in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [319133]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In 2009-10, core funding for each of the nine Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships (RIEPs) was:

Region	*Core funding (£ million)*
East of England	7.952
East Midlands	7.159
London	7.699
North East	5.674
North West	8.036
South East	9.707
South West	7.665
West Midlands	7.193
Yorkshire and Humber	6.416
Total	67.5

Indicative core funding for each RIEP in 2010-11 is the same as for 2009-10; the decision on whether to confirm these indicative allocations will be announced shortly. No decisions have been taken yet regarding core funding in 2011-12.

Core funding is intended to enable RIEPs to meet their objectives to support the successful delivery of local area agreements and achievement of councils' £5.5 billion efficiency target by March 2011. An important activity to meet these objectives will be the promotion of collaborative procurement opportunities among local authorities. Core funding is not ring-fenced, so the decision on how much of it is to be used for this purpose is for individual RIEPs to make.

RIEPs also receive grants from government departments to support specific activities; for example, in 2009-10, they shared £31.706 million from this Department's Efficiency and Transformation Fund to use in support of capital projects that aim to deliver public services in more customer-focused and efficient ways.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff work for each Regional Improvement Efficiency Partnership. [319271]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We do not hold this information centrally.

Regional European Offices

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1128W, on regional European offices, whether the Audit Commission has a role in auditing the finances of the *(a)* regional leaders boards and regional assemblies in England outside London and *(b)* regional European offices in Brussels. [319011]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 2 March 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission has been appointed by 4NW (the North West Regional Assembly) to audit its accounts. The necessary consent of the Secretary of State was received under section 29 of the Audit Commission Act 1998.

We previously audited the accounts of the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Assembly up to, and including, 2008/09. Again the necessary consent was obtained.

In both instances the Commission was approached by the relevant Regional Assembly, as the financial management of the bodies was carried out by local authorities, to which the Commission is required to make an auditor appointment under the Audit Commission Act 1998.

The Commission does not audit the finances of Regional Leaders Boards or Regional European Offices in Brussels.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Regional Planning and Development: Thames Gateway

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much the Homes and Communities Agency spent on the Thames Gateway project in each of the last three years; [318716]

(2) which public bodies received funding from the Thames Gateway Fund in each of the last three years; and how much was paid to each organisation in each of those years; [318721]

(3) how much was paid to *(a)* the South East England Development Agency and *(b)* the East of England Development Agency by the Thames Gateway Fund in each of the last three years; [318724]

(4) how much was paid to local authorities by the Thames Gateway Fund in each of the last three years; [318725]

(5) how much was received by the Homes and Communities Agency from the Thames Gateway Fund in each of the last three years. [318727]

Mr. Malik: The Thames Gateway programme is set out in the Thames Gateway delivery plan published in November 2007. Until 30 November 2008 the programme was administered by the Thames Gateway Executive in Communities and Local Government. From 1 December 2008, the programme was transferred to the Homes and Communities Agency, although grant in aid for the two Thames Gateway urban development corporations continues to be paid out by Communities and Local Government.

The development corporations, local authorities, regional development agencies and other public bodies that have received Thames Gateway funding in the three years 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-10, together with the amounts, are:

Organisation	*Amounts (£) paid in:* 2007-08	2008-09	2009-10[1]
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation	44,000,000	50,000,000	35,000,000
Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation	59,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000
Basildon district council	2,370,693	4,436,981	6,339,117
Castlepoint borough council	99,779	39,783	340,000
Dartford borough council	4,068,190	4,967,821	6,217,700
Gravesham borough council	1,614,038	1,434,000	1,434,000
Kent county council	6,648,872	5,052,292	8,920,915
London borough of Barking and Dagenham	0	0	150,000
London borough of Bexley	454,235	341,490	885,000
London borough of Greenwich	2,205,671	2,228,569	6,112,520
London borough of Lewisham	2,057,805	471,599	3,350,805
Medway council	100,000	156,561	1,560,000
Southend on Sea borough council	455,954	522,016	3,000,000
Swale borough council	0	0	3,000,000
East of England Development Agency (EEDA)	0	0	0
South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)	5,553,001	358,354	4,025,000
Invest Thames Gateway	246,165	544,471	962,000
Office of Government Commerce	236,455	0	0
Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment	335,644	118,822	0
Land Restoration Trust	1,170,554	5,000	0
Forestry Commission	1,081,365	798,464	0
Environment Agency	853,500	178,500	580,000

[1] Amounts for 2009/10 are an estimate based on actual expenditure to date and forecast to the end of the financial year.

Rented Housing: Empty Property

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* local authority-owned, *(b)* registered social landlord-managed and *(c)* privately-owned homes were empty for more than six months in each of the last 10 years; how many and what proportion of privately-owned homes in each local authority area were empty in each of the last 10 years; how many privately-owned homes were returned to habitation in each of the last 10 years; how many Empty Homes Management orders have been (i) applied for and (ii) completed since such orders were introduced; what discussions he has had with the Empty Homes Agency on its proposals for a homesteading scheme; what assessment he has made of the likely effectiveness of the introduction of such a scheme in reducing the number of empty homes; what estimate he has made of the cost of such a scheme in its first 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [318527]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on the number of *(a)* local authority-owned homes that were empty for more than six months and *(c)* privately-owned homes that were empty for more than six months in each of the last 10 years can be found in the tables published on the Local Authority Housing Strategy and Business Plan Data page of the Communities and Local Government website at the following link. These tables present data collected in the annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) and Business Planning Statistical

Appendix (BPSA). Figures for some years, including 2009, may be unavailable due to changes in the format and detail of the forms used to collect these data.

Information on the number and proportion of privately-owned homes in each local authority area that were empty in each of the last 10 years can also be found in the HSSA-based tables at the same link. Figures for some years, including 2009, may be unavailable due to changes in the format and detail of the forms used to collect these data.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/localauthorityhousing/

These data can only be collated and presented in a single set of tables and provided in the answer to this parliamentary question at disproportionate cost.

Information on *(b)* the number of registered social landlord-managed homes that were empty for more than six months in each of the last 10 years, and homes that were empty for more than six months in each of the last 10 years and on the number of privately-owned homes that were returned to habitation in each of the last 10 years is not held centrally.

To date, 29 Interim Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMOs) have been approved by the Residential Property Tribunal Service (RPTS) since the legislation came into effect in April 2006. Information on the number of Empty Dwelling Management Orders applied for is not held centrally.

My right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing met with the Empty Homes Agency on 2 September 2009 and discussed a range of issues including homesteading but no formal proposals have been submitted.

Sleeping Rough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology his Department has approved for conducting rough sleeping counts. [319236]

Mr. Ian Austin: Local authorities evaluate the extent of rough sleeping within their area in accordance with the methodology on street counts set out in the Department's "Guidance on Evaluating the Extent of Rough Sleeping—2007 Revision," which was developed in conjunction with the voluntary sector. This guidance gives the following definition of rough sleepers:

> "People sleeping, or bedded down, in the open air (such as on the streets, or in doorways, parks or bus shelters); people in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or "bashes").

In 1998 there were estimated to be 1,850 rough sleepers in England. Since then good progress has been progress has been made in reducing the total number of rough sleepers to 464 in 2009, based on local authority street counts.

Social Rented Housing: Registration

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes are recorded on the National Register of Social Housing; what proportion of *(a)* council housing and *(b)* housing association housing is on the register; and what targets the Tenant Services Authority has to increase the quantity of data held on the register. [319299]

Mr. Ian Austin: The total number of dwellings recorded on the National Register of Social Housing (NROSH) is 4.2 million.

The proportion of council (local authority) housing recorded on NROSH is 95 per cent. The proportion of housing association (registered social landlord) housing recorded on NROSH is 96 per cent.

The Tenants Services Authority's target, inherited from the Housing Corporation, is for all NROSH priority data fields to be populated by 31 March 2010.

Social Rented Housing: Rents

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the implementation of his Department's policy of rents convergence between local authority and housing association tenants. [319234]

John Healey: There is no fixed date established for convergence.

Social Rented Housing: Tenure

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what research on social housing tenure has been commissioned by his Department and its agencies in the last 36 months; and what such research has been completed; [319042]

(2) what research *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have conducted in relation to social housing rents since 2005; [319325]

(3) what research *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have conducted on social housing tenure, tenure eligibility and tenure security since 2005. [319326]

Mr. Ian Austin: Details of research projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and its predecessors are available from our research database (RD) at

http://www.rmd.communities.gov.uk/

The database provides information on projects going back to 30 November 2001. This includes the subject, contractor and cost and publication date of each research commission.

Social Rented Housing: Waiting Lists

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* households were on social housing waiting lists in England in (i) April 1997 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. [319228]

John Healey: Information is available on numbers of households rather than people or families. The number of households registered on social housing waiting lists in each local authority, each region, and in England, as at 1 April each year from 1997 to 2009, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600. The link for this table is given as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table600.xls

Standards for England

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* items of data and *(b)* performance indicators the Standards Board requires local authorities to submit to it. [319143]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In the course of each year the Standards Board requires local authority monitoring officers to complete and submit five online returns.

Four are quarterly returns used to collect information on local case handling and legal composition of the local standards committee to enable the Standards Board to fulfil its statutory responsibilities for regulating the conduct regime including, in the worst cases of the standards committee failing to carry out its functions in relation to the conduct of members in a reasonable manner, if necessary, suspending a council's standards committee's initial assessment functions and passing its functions to another authority.

The fifth return is an annual return enabling the Standards Board to disseminate information on best practice across local government.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library copies of the branding and communications advice obtained by the Standards Board in relation to its decision to rebrand itself as Standards for England. [319265]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I am arranging with the chief executive of the Standards Board for England for a copy of the advice, commissioned by the Standards Board, to be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to abolish the Standards Board for England. [319327]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have no plans to abolish the Standards Board for England.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1321W, on Standards for England, whether ministerial approval was sought for the rebranding of Standards Board for England as Standards for England; and whether external organisations were contracted to provide services relating to that rebranding. [319365]

Ms Rosie Winterton: These are operational matters which the Standards Board may progress without ministerial approval.

An external organisation was contracted to provide services relating to the rebranding, at a cost within the delegated authority of the Standards Board.

Supported Housing: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 773-4W, on supported housing, whether capital funding to areas or projects will be reduced as a consequent on the allocation of £30 million of funding to the places for 16 and 17 year old single parents. [319107]

Mr. Ian Austin: Capital funding to areas or projects will not be reduced as a consequence of the Prime Minister's announcement in September 2009.

Tenancy Deposit Schemes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations his Department has received on recent increases in the cost of joining tenancy deposit schemes. [318729]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department has received around 10 representations from letting agents about the Tenancy Deposit Scheme (TDS)'s recent fee increases. TDS is one of the two Government authorised "insurance-based" tenancy deposit protection schemes which landlords pay a fee to join. The custodial tenancy deposit protection scheme, operated by the Deposit Protection Service, remains free to use.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the profits made by companies operating tenancy deposit schemes; and if he will make a statement. [318730]

Mr. Ian Austin: No recent assessment of the profits of the companies operating tenancy deposit protection schemes has been made. The three tenancy deposit protection schemes are operated by private companies under contract with Communities and Local Government and are designed to be self-financing.

Tesco: Planning Permission

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning appeals relating to Tesco supermarkets have been considered by the Planning Inspectorate in the last 24 months. [319015]

Mr. Ian Austin: In the 24 month period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2009 the Planning Inspectorate received 49 planning appeals and, within the same period, determined 31 planning appeals, where Tesco was either appellant or joint appellant and the development related to a retail outlet.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the funding of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund beyond 2010. [319225]

Ms Rosie Winterton: An indicative budget of £507,900,000 has been allocated for 2010-11 as part of the £1.5 billion three year (2008-11) settlement to help local authorities and their partners tackle worklessness.

No decision has yet been taken about the Working Neighbourhoods Fund beyond 2010-11.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much funding his Department has allocated to the Building Schools for the Future programme to date; [319545]

(2) which schools in England have received funding from the Building Schools for the Future programme to date. [319544]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 1 March 2010]*: Funding for Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is released when financial close has been reached for the school concerned. Once this milestone is reached funding is paid in instalments throughout the construction period. Table 2 lists all the schools which had reached financial close at the time of the last quarterly payment run in December 2009. They have all therefore received funding through BSF.

The total amount of funding allocated to the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme is shown in table 1 as follows:

Table 1

£ million

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*Total*
Capital	786	927	513	630	979	3,385
PFI credits	1,200	1,250	1,300	1,314	1,320	6,384
Total	1,986	2,177	1,813	1,944	2,299	9,769

Notes:

1. The figures shown are budgets and do not include academies procured through the Partnerships for Schools national framework
2. It is expected that approximately £2.1 billion of capital and £1.3 billion PFI credits will be allocated to BSF in 2010-11.

Table 2

Local authority	*School name*
Barnsley	Carlton
Barnsley	Darton School
Barnsley	Dearne
Barnsley	Kirk Balk
Barnsley	Penistone
Birmingham	Broadway School
Birmingham	Holte
Birmingham	Mayfield
Birmingham	Stockland Green
Bradford	Beckfoot
Bradford	Beckfoot and Hazelbeck
Bradford	Beechcliffe Special
Bradford	Buttershaw
Bradford	Challenge College
Bradford	Greenhead and Beechcliffe
Bradford	Hanson
Bradford	Hazelbeck Special
Bradford	New co-located SEN
Bradford	Parkside School
Bradford	Salt Grammar School
Bradford	Tong
Bristol	Ashton Park
Bristol	Brislington Enterprise College
Bristol	Cotham
Bristol	Florence Brown
Bristol	Hartcliffe Education Campus
Bristol	Oasis Academy
Bristol	Speedwell Technical College
Bristol	St. Bedes
Bristol	St Bernadettes
Bristol	St. Mary Redcliffe Temple
Bristol	Whitefield Fishponds College
Derbyshire	Bolsover
Derbyshire	Heritage
Derbyshire	PRU (Derbyshire)
Derbyshire	Springwell (Derbyshire)
Durham	Easington
Durham	Sedgefield
Durham	Shotton Hall
Greenwich	Crown Woods
Greenwich	Thomas Tallis
Hackney	Clapton Girls Technology College
Hackney	Hackney Free and Parochial
Hackney	Stoke Newington
Haringey	Alexandra Park School
Haringey	Blanche Neville
Haringey	Fortismere
Haringey	Gladesmore Community School
Haringey	Heartlands High School
Haringey	Highgate Wood Secondary School
Haringey	Hornsey School for Girls
Haringey	John Loughborough School
Haringey	Moselle School
Haringey	Northumberland Park and The Vale
Haringey	Park View Academy
Haringey	Sixth Form Centre
Haringey	St. Thomas More School
Haringey	Vale Resource Base
Haringey	William C Harvey
Haringey	Woodside High School
Haringey	Young Peoples Centre (Haringey Pupil Referral Unit)
Islington	Highbury Grove
Islington	Holloway School
Islington	Samuel Rhodes
Islington	St. Aloysius College (RC)
Kent	Charles Dickens
Kent	Community College Whitstable
Kent	Dane Court School
Kent	Herne Bay High
Kent	Ifield
Kent	King Ethelbert
Kent	Northfleet School for Girls
Kent	Northfleet Technology College
Kent	St Georges
Kent	St. Johns School
Kent	Thamesview School
Knowsley	Halewood
Knowsley	Highfield
Knowsley	Kirkby Community LC
Knowsley	Kirkby RC Learning Centre

Table 2

Local authority	*School name*
Knowsley	Knowsley Central
Knowsley	Knowsley Central RC
Knowsley	North Huyton Joint Christian Learning Centre
Knowsley	South Huyton Learning Centre
Lambeth	Stockwell Park High School
Lambeth	The Elm Court School
Lambeth	The Elmgreen School
Lambeth	The Michael Tippet School
Lambeth	The Park Campus
Lancs	Accrington Academy
Lancs	Blessed Trinity
Lancs	Burnley Campus
Lancs	Hameldon
Lancs	Marsden Heights
Lancs	Pendle Vale
Lancs	Pendle Vale GLD
Lancs	Rose
Lancs	Shuttleworth College
Lancs	Sir John Thursby Community College
Lancs	Sir John Thursby co-located special
Lancs	Unity College
Leeds	Allerton Grange
Leeds	Allerton High
Leeds	Cardinal Heenan
Leeds	City of Leeds
Leeds	Cockburn
Leeds	Crawshaw
Leeds	John Smeaton Community College
Leeds	Priesthorpe
Leeds	Primrose
Leeds	Pudsey Grangefield
Leeds	Ralph Thoresby High
Leeds	Rodillian
Leeds	Swallow Hill Community College
Leeds	Temple Moor High
Leicester	Beaumont Leys Secondary School
Leicester	Fullhurst Community College
Leicester	Judgemeadow Community College
Leicester	Soar Valley College
Lewisham	Catford
Lewisham	Hatcham Temple Grove
Lewisham	Northbrook
Lewisham	Sedgehill
Liverpool	Broughton Hall
Liverpool	Cardinal Heenan
Liverpool	Ernest Cookson
Liverpool	Gateacre (and Hope) Schools
Liverpool	Hope
Liverpool	King David Campus
Liverpool	Lower Lee
Liverpool	The Alsop High School
Liverpool	West Derby (and Ernest Cookson)
Luton	Barnfield South Academy
Luton	Barnfield West Academy
Luton	Challney High for Girls
Luton	Lea Manor
Manchester	Brookway
Manchester	Buglawton Hall
Manchester	Buglawton Residential
Manchester	Burnage Boys
Manchester	Castlefield
Manchester	Gorton Village (Cedar Mount High and Melland)
Manchester	King David High
Manchester	Levenshulme (Girls)
Manchester	Manchester Communications Academy
Manchester	Meade Hill
Manchester	New East Manchester
Manchester	Newall Green School
Manchester	North Ridge SEN
Manchester	Our Lady's RC
Manchester	Parklands Enterprise Academy
Manchester	Piper Hill
Manchester	Plant Hill
Manchester	St. Matthew's RC
Manchester	St. Pauls
Middlesbrough	Acklam Grange
Middlesbrough	Ashdale
Middlesbrough	Beverley and Tollesby School
Middlesbrough	Ormesby
Middlesbrough	Priory Woods
Middlesbrough	Tollesby
N Lincs	Brumby Engineering College
N Lincs	Melior College
Newcastle	All Saints
Newcastle	Brunton First School
Newcastle	Gosforth Central
Newcastle	Gosforth East
Newcastle	Gosforth High
Newcastle	Gosforth West Middle
Newcastle	Heaton Manor
Newcastle	Kenton
Newcastle	Knoplaw Primary
Newcastle	Milecastle Primary
Newcastle	Sacred Heart
Newcastle	Sir Charles Parsons
Newcastle	St. Cuthbert's RC
Newcastle	St. Mary's RC
Newcastle	Stocksfield Avenue
Newcastle	Thomas Bewick
Newcastle	Trinity Dene View
Newcastle	Trinity Oakfield
Newcastle	Walbottle
Newcastle	Walker
Newcastle	Walkergate Primary
Newcastle	West Jesmond Primary
Newcastle	West Walker Primary School
Newcastle	Westgate Hill Primary
Newcastle	Canning Street Primary
Newham	Brampton Manor
Newham	Lister
Newham	Rokeby
Newham	Sarah Bonnell
Nottingham	Big Wood School
Nottingham	Bulwell Academy
Nottingham	Hadden Park
Nottingham	Nottingham Academy
Nottingham	Nottingham University Samworth Academy
Nottingham	Oakfields Special School Centre of Excellence
Nottingham	Rosehill
Rochdale	Hollingworth Business And Enterprise College
Salford	Chatsworth
Salford	Harrop Fold
Salford	Irlam and Cadishead
Salford	New Park
Salford	Oakwood High

Table 2

Local authority	*School name*
Salford	Walkden High
Sandwell	Holly Lodge
Sandwell	Ruskin House PRU
Sandwell	St. Michael's C of E School
Sandwell	Westminster School
Sandwell	Whiteheath School
Sheffield	All Saints
Sheffield	Bents Green
Sheffield	Chaucer Business and Enterprise College
Sheffield	Ecclesfield
Sheffield	Fir Vale
Sheffield	Firth Park
Sheffield	Forge Valley High
Sheffield	Heritage Park
Sheffield	High Storrs School
Sheffield	Hinde House
Sheffield	Holgate Meadows
Sheffield	King Ecgburt
Sheffield	KS3 PLC
Sheffield	KS4 PLC
Sheffield	Newfield
Sheffield	Silverdale
Sheffield	Talbot
Sheffield	Tapton
Sheffield	Yewlands
Solihull	Lanchester
Solihull	Park Hall
Solihull	SCIL (Merstone + Forest Oak)
Solihull	Smith's Wood Sports College
Solihull	The Archbishop Grimshaw (RC)
Southwark	St Michaels
Southwark	Tuke
South Tyneside and Gateshead (STaG)	Bamburgh School
STaG	Boldon School
STaG	Harton Technology College
STaG	Heworth Grange
STaG	Jarrow School
STaG	Kingsmeadow Community Comprehensive School
STaG	Lord Lawson Of Beamish Community School
STaG	Mortimer School
STaG	South Shields Community School.
STaG	St. Josephs RC School
STaG	St. Wilfrids RC School
STaG	Thomas Hepburn
Stoke	Birches Head
Stoke	Sandon High
Sunderland	Academy 360
Sunderland	Biddick
Sunderland	Castle View Academy
Sunderland	Hylton Red House Academy
Sunderland	Oxclose
Sunderland	St. Robert of Newminster RC
Sunderland	Washington
Tameside	Alder
Tameside	Ashton Academy
Tameside	Mossley Hollins
Tameside	New Charter Academy
Tameside	Sam Laycock
Tower Hamlets	Bethnal Green
Tower Hamlets	Morpeth
Tower Hamlets	St. Paul's Way Community School
Tower Hamlets	Wessex
Waltham Forest	Bremer School
Waltham Forest	Kelmscott
Waltham Forest	Queens Road Primary
Waltham Forest	Waltham Forest Girls
Westminster	Grey Coat Hospital School
Westminster	Pimlico School
Westminster	St. Augustine High CE
Westminster	St. Georges RC
Westminster	St. Marylebone School
Westminster	Westminster City Boys School
Barnet	East Barnet School
Bath and North East Somerset	Writhlington School
Bracknell Forest	Garth Hill College
Buckinghamshire	Cressex Community School
Cornwall	Penryn College
Derby	Sinfin Community School
Devon	Bideford College
Dorset	Elizabeth's CE VC School
Durham	Durham Johnstone
East Sussex	Bexhill High School
Gloucestershire	Rednock School
Greenwich	Charlton
Harrow	Whitmore High School
Herefordshire	The Minster College
Kingston upon Thames	Chessington Community College
Leicestershire	Melton John Fernley High
Leicestershire	Melton Post 16 Centre
Lewisham	Forest Hill
Lewisham	Greenvale
Manchester	Wright Robinson
Newcastle	Benfield
North Somerset	Nailsea Community School
North Yorkshire	Richmond School
Plymouth	Estover Community College
Redbridge	Loxford School of Science and Technology
Richmond Upon Thames	Teddington School
Rutland	Vale of Catmose College
Sefton	Litherland High School
Shropshire	William Brookes School
South Gloucestershire	Filton High School
Southend on Sea	Belfairs High School
St Helens	Cowley Language college
Sutton	Stanley Park High School
Torbay	Torquay Community College
Warrington	Culcheth High School
West Berkshire	St. Bartholomew's School
West Sussex	Bognor Regis Community College
Wigan	Abraham Guest High School
Wiltshire	Melksham Oak School (new school name was George Ward)
Windsor and Maidenhead	Holyport Manor Special School
Wirral	Woodchurch High School
Wokingham	Waingels College
York	Joseph Rowntree School

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what discussions he has had with Birmingham city council on its prioritisation and phasing of schools projects under the Building Schools for the Future programme; [320061]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with Birmingham city council on future Building Schools for the Future projects in Birmingham; [320062]

(3) how many schools in Birmingham are *(a)* being and *(b)* planned to be redeveloped as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme; [320063]

(4) how much funding he has allocated to Building Schools for the Future (BSF) projects in Birmingham for *(a)* active projects and *(b)* follow-on projects in each wave of that programme; and whether there has been any change to (i) agreed and (ii) projected funding arrangements for BSF projects in Birmingham. [320091]

Mr. Coaker: Partnerships for Schools (PfS), as the delivery agent for Building Schools for the Future (BSF), is responsible for discussions with local authorities about prioritising and phasing of schools in the programme. Birmingham is in Waves 2 and 5 of the BSF programme and discussions with the city council have reached the following stages:

> The Wave 2 Strategic Business Case and Outline Business Case (OBC) identify the prioritisation and phasing of schools in the first phase that are now either in construction or being developed.
>
> The Wave 5 Strategy for Change and OBC, which will establish the prioritisation and phasing of the second phase, is currently being completed by the local authority.
>
> PfS is currently evaluating the authority's Readiness to Deliver (RtD) proposal for Phase 3.
>
> The local authority's Academy programme is in development.

10 schools are being redeveloped and 20 are planned to be redeveloped as part of the BSF programme.

When an OBC for a wave of a local authority's BSF project is agreed, the funding is fixed for the first group of prioritised schools in the wave. However, as each subsequent group of schools in the wave is brought forward the funding is adjusted for changes in construction inflation and location factors. As such, all funding after the first group of schools in the wave is indicative until the respective stage submission is approved. The current funding forecasts for Birmingham's BSF projects are as follows:

	£ million		
	PFI credits	*Capital grant*	*Funding status*
Active Wave 2 schools	78.77	18.33	Fixed
Remaining Wave 2 schools	27	80	Indicative

Funding of circa £160 million of capital grant for eight academies is currently in the process of being approved. This funding is not included above.

Funding allocations for Wave 5 will be determined in its OBC. Allocations for the remaining schools within Birmingham will be agreed when the projects come into the programme. The authority has submitted RtD proposals for Phase 3 within the £100 million scope required by PfS.

Children: Deaths

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the change was in the number of notifications to Ofsted of deaths of *(a)* children and *(b)* children under the age of one year following a serious incident between 2008 and 2009; and what assessment he has made of the reasons for that change. [314044]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on the number of notifications of deaths of children following a serious incident are a matter for Ofsted. Ofsted has disclosed the information requested in reply to a request under Freedom of Information Act from the hon. Gentleman.

Serious incidents are notified to Ofsted straight away where a child has died and where abuse or neglect are known or suspected to be a factor in the death. But further investigation may indicate that the death was due to other causes.

Government Offices have been working closely with Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to help ensure that procedures relating to child deaths are fully observed. A higher number of notifications could be due in part to an increased awareness of the procedures that need to be followed, including the notification to Ofsted of serious incidents.

Every single death of a child is an absolute tragedy, whether as a result of abuse or neglect or not. We must continue to do everything we can to protect children from those who seek to harm them. This is why we commissioned Lord Laming to carry out a report of safeguarding progress nationally. Lord Laming's report confirmed that robust legislative, structural and policy foundations are in place. We accepted and are implementing all 58 of his recommendations.

It is also the case that we are the first country in the world to implement a statutory multi-agency child death reviewing system to collect, analyse and act upon information about every child's death.

Citizenship: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point have received lessons in citizenship since that subject was made part of the national curriculum. [318087]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We do not collect local data and cannot say how many young people have received lessons on citizenship in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point since it became a compulsory subject in 2002.

Departmental Consultants

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether consultants have been contracted to carry out public participation activity on behalf of his Department in the last three years; [316835]

(2) whether his Department has contracted consultants to carry out public participation activity on behalf of his Department since 2007. [317069]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Correspondence

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to how many *(a)* emails and *(b)* letters from members of the public his Department has responded since May 2007. [317048]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department was established on 28 June 2007. From 1 July 2007 until 31 December 2009 we have responded to 108,901 items of correspondence from members of the public. The Department does not record the information by correspondence method and therefore cannot break the figure down into e-mails and letters.

Departmental Energy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the estimated *(a)* amount and *(b)* cost was of energy used in his Department in each year since 1997; what proportion of the energy used was generated from renewable sources in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [317227]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was formed via a machinery of Government change in June 2007; therefore a complete response to the question above can be provided only for financial years 2007/08, 2008/09.

In 2007/08 the Department consumed 23,763,917 kilowatt hours of energy (gas, electricity and steam) at a cost of £1,489,366 at the four HQ sites in London, Darlington, Sheffield and Runcorn.

In 2008/09 the Department consumed 21,286,750 kilowatt hours of energy (gas, electricity and steam) at a cost of £1,683,021 at the four HQ sites in London, Darlington, Sheffield and Runcorn.

While a green energy tariff is in place for Darlington electricity it is not possible to determine the level of energy generated from renewables sources for each of these years.

Departmental Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost to his Department of funding *(a)* Post-graduate Certificate in Education and *(b)* undergraduate Bachelor of Education courses (i) was in each of the last three years and (ii) will be in 2010-11. [318136]

Mr. Coaker: The figures contained in the following table show the mainstream funding amounts the Training and Development Agency for Schools has paid to teacher training providers for postgraduate and undergraduate courses of initial teacher training (ITT) for academic years 2007/08 to 2009/10. The breakdown of funding between postgraduate and Postgraduate Certificate in Education courses and Bachelor of Education and other undergraduate courses is not available. Figures for 2010/11 are not yet available.

£

ITT funding	*Postgraduate*	*Undergraduate*	*Total*
2007/08	142,547,155	110,404,248	252,951,403
2008/09	148,511,550	111,698,185	260,209,735
2009/10	150,613,580	107,637,420	258,251,000

Notes

1. The above figures do not take account of funding adjustments (holdback) which have been made subsequently for under- and over recruitment to courses.

2. These figures do not include recruitment premiums, student bursaries and other incentives, capital support or development funding.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many communications or press officers his Department employs. [319146]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department's human resources system holds information on individuals by their generalist civil service grade and therefore it is not possible to identify everybody engaged in communications work in the department, and this information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Consultation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on *(a)* written consultations, *(b)* consultation events and *(c)* focus groups in each of the last three years. [317068]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on *(a)* written consultations, *(b)* consultation road shows and *(c)* focus groups in each of the last three years. [317839]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's document entitled Social Mobility: Narrowing Social Class Educational Attainment Gaps published on 26 April 2006. [316716]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: A copy of the document entitled "Social Mobility: Narrowing Social Class Educational Attainment Gaps," dated 26 April 2006, has been placed in the Library.

Disadvantaged

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schemes aimed at *(a)* improving parenting skills, *(b)* supporting dysfunctional families and *(c)* providing diversionary activities for young people at risk of offending his Department and its predecessors have introduced since 1997; how much has been spent on each; and whether any ring-fenced funding has been provided to local authorities to finance such schemes. [312229]

Dawn Primarolo: Between April 1997 and March 2009, we have identified 13 key policies that contribute to: *(a)* improving parenting skills, *(b)* supporting dysfunctional families and *(c)* providing diversionary activities for young people at risk of offending. This consists of £168 million on schemes that are aimed at improving parenting skills, £34 million supporting dysfunctional families and £439 million providing diversionary activities for young people at risk of offending. Of this, £164 million has been ring-fenced funding.

In addition to this, Sure Start has a total spend to date of £4.808 million and would contribute to both part *(a)* and *(b)* respectively. This funding is also ring-fenced.

Free School Meals: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of students in Leeds, North-West constituency was eligible to receive free school meals in the latest period for which figures are available. [319507]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information is shown in the table.

Maintained nursery, primary[1] and state funded secondary[1, 2] schools: Number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3] as at January 2009

	Leeds, North-West constituency		
	Number of pupils[4]	*Number of pupils eligible for FSM*	*Percentage of pupils eligible for FSM*
Nursery and primary schools[1]	4,620	520	11.3
State funded secondary schools[1, 2]	5,200	660	12.7

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Those eligible may choose not to take up their offer of a free school meal for various reasons e.g. through preference or through non-attendance on the day. Pupils are counted as eligible only if they meet the eligibility criteria and make a claim.

[4] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students resident in *(a)* Knowsley, *(b)* Kensington and Chelsea and *(c)* Islington sat an A level in (i) mathematics, (ii) further mathematics, (iii) physics, (iv) English literature, (v) history, (vi) a modern language and (vii) chemistry in (A) 1997 and (B) the most recent year for which figures are available. [316852]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is shown in the following table for 2003/04 and 2008/09. Subject information based on pupil residency is available only from 2003/04 onwards.

Students in maintained schools[1] sitting A level subjects in 2003/04[2] and 2008/09[3] by local authority of pupil residence

				Number
		Islington	*Kensington and Chelsea*	*Knowsley*
Mathematics	2003/04	45	24	34
	2008/09	60	49	45
Further Mathematics	2003/04	3	[4]...	5
	2008/09	6	9	[4]...
Physics	2003/04	19	15	18
	2008/09	14	13	19
English Literature	2003/04	107	39	52
	2008/09	112	43	40
History	2003/04	81	20	41
	2008/09	99	26	32
Modern Language	2003/04	38	26	14
	2008/09	39	26	19
Chemistry	2003/04	35	13	27
	2008/09	45	25	25

[1] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including academies and city technology colleges)

[2] Based on final data.

[3] Based on revised data.

[4] Figures not shown in order to protect confidentiality.

Source:

National Pupil Database.

GCSE: Gifted Children

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils with gifted and talented status achieved *(a)* three As at A-level, *(b)* five GCSEs including English and mathematics at grades A* to C excluding equivalents and *(c)* at least one GCSE pass at grade C or above, excluding equivalents in (i) 1997, (ii) 2003, (iii) 2006 and (iv) the most recent year for which figures are available. [316855]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested for the academic years 2005/06 and 2008/09 is in the following tables. Data on gifted and talented pupils were not collected before the 2005/06 academic year.

GCSE achievements of gifted and talented pupils[1, 2] at the end of key stage 4, 2005/06 and 2008/09

	2005/06	*2008/09*
Number of gifted and talented pupils[1, 2] at the end of key stage 4	63,819	93,100
Number of gifted and talented pupils[1, 2] who achieved five or more GCSEs including English and mathematics at grade A*-C excluding equivalents	53,570	81,143
Percentage of gifted and talented pupils[1, 2] who achieved five or more GCSEs including English and mathematics at grade A*-C excluding equivalents	83.9	87.2
Number of gifted and talented pupils[1, 2] who achieved at least one GCSE pass at grade C or above excluding equivalents	62,454	91,611
Percentage of gifted and talented pupils[1, 2] who achieved at least one GCSE pass at grade C or above excluding equivalents	97.9	98.4

[1] Pupils attending maintained schools only including city technology colleges and academies.

[2] The question on the school census does not differentiate between gifted pupils and talented pupils.

Source:

National Pupil Database (2005/06 final data, 2008/09 revised data)

A level achievements of gifted and talented students[1, 2], 2005/06 and 2008/09

	2005/06	*2008/09*
Number of gifted and talented students[1, 2, 3]	10,683	31,469

A level achievements of gifted and talented students[1, 2, 3]: 2005/06 and 2008/09

	2005/06	2008/09
Number of gifted and talented students[1, 2, 3] who achieved three grade As at A level[4]	3,152	8,136
Percentage of gifted and talented students[1, 2, 3] who achieved three grade As at A level[4]	29.5	25.9

[1] Students attending maintained schools only including city technology colleges and academies. [2] 16 to 18-year-old candidates entered for GCE/Applied GCE A levels and Double Awards in 2008/09 and GCE/VCE A level and VCE Double Awards in 2005/06. [3] The question on the school census does not differentiate between gifted students and talented students. [4] Includes GCE/Applied GCE A level and Double Awards in 2008/09 and GCE/VCE A level and VCE Double Awards in 2005/06. *Source:* National Pupil Database (2005/06 final data, 2008/09 revised data).

Home Education: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the number of home educators in *(a)* Gloucestershire and *(b)* Stroud constituency; and what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of their regulation should the recommendation of the Badman review of secondary education be accepted. [312747]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Gloucestershire local authority (LA) provided us with information about the number of children in its area, which includes Stroud, who were known by the LA to be home-educated in May 2009 (254) and again in September 2009 (224). This data has been used to inform Graham Badman's Review of "Elective Home Education England". We have not collected data below local authority level.

There may be other home-educated children in the Gloucestershire LA area of which the local authority is not aware because there is no current requirement for local authorities to keep a register of home-educated children.

We estimate that the cost of the registration and monitoring proposals for home-educated children will be around £26.3 million in the first year and £14.6 million in subsequent years, based on 20,000 home-educated children. We do not have figures available yet for allocations below national level. We will develop detailed funding methodologies for local authority allocations after discussion with the Local Government Association and local authorities.

National Curriculum Tests

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children achieved at least level 2b in each subject at Key Stage 1 in each year since such assessments were introduced. [317740]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* The information has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each London borough have received in funding per student in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [319063]

Mr. Coaker: Per pupil revenue funding figures for primary school pupils (ages three to 10) for each London borough between 2004-05 and 2005-06 are shown in Table 1. These figures are in real terms and are based on financial years.

Table 1: Real terms revenue funding per pupil—SSA/EFS plus grants

		£
	2004-05	2005-06
Camden	5,860	6,100
Greenwich	5,210	5,570
Hackney	5,970	6,380
Hammersmith and Fulham	5,700	5,940
Islington	5,760	6,120
Kensington and Chelsea	5,910	6,090
Lambeth	5,830	6,110
Lewisham	5,350	5,710
Southwark	5,430	5,880
Tower Hamlets	6,110	6,570
Wandsworth	5,040	5,410
Westminster	5,560	5,840
Barking and Dagenham	4,410	4,610
Barnet	4,200	4,520
Bexley	3,810	4,000
Brent	4,850	5,160
Bromley	3,810	4,040
Croydon	4,140	4,350
Ealing	4,640	4,990
Enfield	4,370	4,570
Haringey	5,100	5,340
Harrow	4,220	4,500
Havering	3,770	3,970
Hillingdon	4,110	4,400
Hounslow	4,540	4,850
Kingston upon Thames	3,840	4,140
Merton	4,220	4,510
Newham	5,030	5,310
Redbridge	4,070	4,300
Richmond upon Thames	3,810	4,060
Sutton	3,910	4,100
Waltham Forest	4,660	4,850

Notes:

1. Price Base: Real terms at 2008-09 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 9 December 2009.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Standard Spending Assessment/Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DFES Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged three to 10 and exclude Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level. For those authorities in receipt of advance of grant under the transitional support arrangements for 2004-05, advance grant funding is included in the year of payment (2004-05). There will be a consequential reduction in DFES grant for these LEAs in future years (either 2006-07 and 2007-08 or 2006-07 to 2008-09, depending on the terms on which the advance was given to the LEA).
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the EFS settlement calculations.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
6. Status: Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

Per pupil revenue funding figures for secondary school pupils (ages 11 to 15) for each London borough between 2004-05 and 2005-06 are shown in Table 2. These figures are in real terms and are based on financial years.

Table 2: Real terms revenue funding per pupil—SSA/EFS plus grants

£

	2004-05	2005-06
Camden	7,200	7,340
Greenwich	6,600	6,970
Hackney	7,990	8,320
Hammersmith and Fulham	7,240	7,310
Islington	7,440	7,800
Kensington and Chelsea	7,660	7,760
Lambeth	7,920	8,180
Lewisham	7,100	7,490
Southwark	7,600	7,820
Tower Hamlets	7,660	7,930
Wandsworth	6,600	6,850
Westminster	6,850	6,950
Barking and Dagenham	5,540	5,690
Barnet	5,180	5,510
Bexley	4,800	4,960
Brent	6,220	6,510
Bromley	4,910	5,050
Croydon	5,410	5,620
Ealing	5,950	6,280
Enfield	5,410	5,390
Haringey	6,790	6,790
Harrow	5,300	5,480
Havering	4,850	5,020
Hillingdon	5,120	5,420
Hounslow	5,590	5,870
Kingston upon Thames	4,880	5,120
Merton	5,320	5,590
Newham	6,200	6,420
Redbridge	4,970	5,140
Richmond upon Thames	4,920	5,100
Sutton	4,890	5,020
Waltham Forest	5,960	6,130

Notes:

1. Price Base: Real terms at 2008-09 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 9 December 2009.

2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Standard Spending Assessment/Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS.

3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DFES Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged 3 to 10 and exclude Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level. For those authorities in receipt of advance of grant under the transitional support arrangements for 2004-05, advance grant funding is included in the year of payment (2004-05). There will be a consequential reduction in DFES grant for these LEAs in future years (either 2006-07 and 2007-08 or 2006-7 to 2008-9, depending on the terms on which the advance was given to the LEA).

4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the EFS settlement calculations.

5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.

6. Status: Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in Table 3 are taken from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). They are not comparable with those for the years 2004-05 to 2005-06 (in Tables 1 and 2 above) because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 2004-05 to 2005-06 figures are based on Education Formula Spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. The DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

To provide a comparison for 2008-09 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06 (the baseline); as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year.

Per pupil revenue funding figures for pupils (ages 3-15)for each London borough between 2005-06 and 2008-09 are shown in Table 3. As the DSG is a mechanism for distributing funding, a split between primary and secondary schools is not available. These figures are in real terms and are based on financial years.

Table 3: Real terms revenue funding per pupil—DSG plus grants

	2005-06 (baseline)	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Camden	6,570	6,690	6,900	6,910
Greenwich	5,660	5,920	6,130	6,260
Hackney	6,510	6,910	7,070	7,250
Hammersmith and Fulham	6,050	6,330	6,540	6,490
Islington	6,140	6,430	6,700	6,660
Kensington and Chelsea	6,420	6,480	6,610	6,530
Lambeth	6,180	6,390	6,620	6,780
Lewisham	5,910	6,130	6,300	6,330
Southwark	5,990	6,440	6,640	6,650
Tower Hamlets	6,680	7,010	7,270	7,350
Wandsworth	5,430	5,650	5,880	5,980
Westminster	5,540	6,040	6,310	6,260
Barking and Dagenham	4,960	4,960	5,240	5,270
Barnet	4,810	4,980	5,130	5,200
Bexley	4,400	4,510	4,660	4,730
Brent	5,210	5,340	5,590	5,700
Bromley	4,240	4,350	4,510	4,590
Croydon	4,480	4,650	4,850	4,910
Ealing	5,200	5,350	5,540	5,620
Enfield	4,770	4,910	5,070	5,100
Haringey	5,560	5,640	5,850	5,940
Harrow	4,590	4,800	4,970	5,170
Havering	4,360	4,450	4,600	4,670
Hillingdon	4,610	4,790	4,930	4,990
Hounslow	5,010	5,180	5,340	5,380
Kingston upon Thames	4,560	4,670	4,790	4,850
Merton	4,550	4,810	4,960	5,010
Newham	5,360	5,640	5,870	5,970
Redbridge	4,490	4,580	4,760	4,820
Richmond upon Thames	4,440	4,550	4,690	4,750
Sutton	4,490	4,590	4,740	4,810
Waltham Forest	4,970	5,170	5,330	5,330

Notes:

1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation), and Standards Fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.

2. Price Base: Real terms at 2008-09 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 9 December 2009.

3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged 3 to 15.

4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10.

5. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

School Choice: Advisory Services

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's evaluation of the Choice Advice service. [317091]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department commissioned Sheffield Hallam university to carry out an evaluation of the independent Choice Advice Service in a small sample of local authorities. The evaluation was published on 27 November 2008 and is available electronically at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectid=15471&resultspage=1

A hard copy is also available in the House of Commons Library.

Schools

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils are receiving one-to-one or small group tuition in *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools; and how many pupils he expects to receive such tuition in each such case in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [317824]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: As part of the one-to-one tuition programme, funding is available to primary schools to provide approximately 150,000 courses of tuition in 2009-10, and approximately 335,000 courses of tuition in 2010-11 in key stage 2. In addition to this, the Every Child Counts and Every Child a Reader programmes in key stage 1 and the Every Child a Writer programme at key stage 2 will provide approximately 43,000 children with one-to-one tuition in 2009-10, and 87,000 with one-to-one tuition in 2010-11.

Funding for secondary schools from the one-to-one tuition programme is available to provide approximately 140,000 courses of tuition in 2009-10, and approximately 290,000 courses of tuition in 2010-11.

No decisions on funding for the one-to-one tuition programme or the Every Child programmes have been taken for 2011-12.

Schools received a personalisation budget of £1.6 billion for the three year period of this comprehensive spending review, and this funding can be used to provide further small group support. The Department does not collect data on the number of pupils receiving this type of support.

Schools: Asbestos

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what training is provided to teachers on asbestos management and safety; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of such provision. [318514]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* We have made a commitment to improve the training provided to head teachers and school business managers on asbestos management, and Partnerships for Schools will be working with HSE to produce training materials. These will be signposted in courses run by the National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services for new head teachers and school business managers. This work will assist them to understand and implement their role in relation to asbestos management during building work, repairs, maintenance and day-to-day operation of schools.

It is not the role of classroom teachers to monitor, manage or to be accountable for the presence of asbestos in schools. Responsibility for this resides with local authorities and/or governing bodies in ensuring that schools are safe for pupils and staff. Consequently, initial teacher training does not address this topic. While there are Qualified Teacher Status standards relating to health and safety issues and the establishment of safe learning environments, training in relation to these standards will be teaching and learning focused, and not related to issues concerning the construction of the building in which that learning takes place.

Schools: Crimes of Violence

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many assaults were officially recorded where the incident took place on school premises in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* the latest year for which figures are available. [317822]

Mr. Coaker: Data on assaults in schools are not collected at a national level.

Schools: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent per pupil on schools in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each year since 1997. [318089]

Mr. Coaker: The Department allocates education funding to local authorities so the requested information for Castle Point constituency is not available. In addition it is for local authorities to determine how they spend their funds locally. The per pupil revenue funding figures for schools in England and Essex local authority since 1997 is shown in the following table:

School based expenditure per pupil from 1997-98 to 2008-09

		England	*Pre LGR Essex*	*Essex*
1997-98	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	1,740	1,740	
	Secondary Education	2,360	2,580	
	Special Schools	9,830	8,730	
	Total (including Pre-Primary)	2,080	2,020	
1998-99	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	1,870		1,950
	Secondary Education	2,450		2,690

School based expenditure per pupil from 1997-98 to 2008-09

		England	*Pre LGR Essex*	*Essex*
	Special Schools	10,110	—	9,590
	Total (including Pre-Primary)	2,190	—	2,230
1999-2000	Primary Education	2,010	—	1,970
	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	2,050	—	1,970
	Secondary Education	2,610	—	2,730
	Special Schools	10,900	—	9,550
	Total (including Pre-Primary)	2,390	—	2,370
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	2,370	—	2,370
2000-01	Primary Education	2,210	—	2,240
	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	2,280	—	2,250
	Secondary Education	2,830	—	2,860
	Special Schools	11,860	—	10,300
	Total (including Pre-Primary)	2,620	—	2,590
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	2,590	—	2,590
2001-02	Primary Education	2,480	—	2,460
	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	2,570	—	2,480
	Secondary Education	3,150	—	3,190
	Special Schools	13,030	—	11,330
	Total (including Pre-Primary)	2,940	—	2,880
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	2,900	—	2,870
2002-03	Primary Education	2,530	—	2,570
	Secondary Education	3,230	—	3,270
	Special Schools	12,820	—	11,780
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	2,950	—	2,960
2003-04	Primary Education	2,750	—	2,750
	Secondary Education	3,550	—	3,560
	Special Schools	14,050	—	12,720
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	3,230	—	3,200
2004-05	Primary Education	2,910	—	2,900
	Secondary Education	3,800	—	3,780
	Special Schools	15,110	—	13,200
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	3,450	—	3,390
2005-06	Primary Education	3,150	—	3,120
	Secondary Education	4,070	—	4,010
	Special Schools	16,430	—	14,280
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	3,720	—	3,630
2006-07	Primary Education	3,360	—	3,250
	Secondary Education	4,320	—	4,260
	Special Schools	17,480	—	14,530
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	3,950	—	3,820
2007-08	Primary Education	3,580	—	3,440
	Secondary Education	4,620	—	4,550
	Special Schools	18,650	—	15,440
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	4,210	—	4,070
2008-09	Primary Education	3,780	—	3,630
	Secondary Education	4,890	—	4,780
	Special Schools	19,790	—	16,860
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	4,460	—	4,280

Notes:

1. The financial information used in the answer to this PQ is taken from the Department's s52 data collection.
2. 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the ROI form collected by CLG to the Section 52 form from the DCSF. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables. The change in sources is shown by dotted lines.
3. Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending maintained establishments within each sector and are drawn from the DCSF Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.
4. Local government reorganisation (LGR) took place during the mid to late 1990's.
5. Expenditure was not distinguished between the pre-primary and primary sectors until the inception of Section 52 for financial year 1999-2000.
6. School based expenditure in LA maintained nursery schools was not recorded in 2002-03 and comparable figures are not available for 2003-04 onwards.
7. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 22 February 2010.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to publish the report commissioned by his Department in 2008 on the Dedicated Schools Grant; and if he will make a statement. [318886]

Mr. Coaker: The Government launched a review of the Dedicated Schools Grant in January 2008 and it is now nearing its conclusion. We expect to issue a consultation on the way forward shortly.

Schools: Fires

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the number of new schools not required to fit sprinklers. [318628]

Mr. Coaker: It is good practice and our expectation that the majority of new schools will include sprinkler systems. Currently over 70 per cent. of new secondary schools and academies procured under Partnerships for Schools arrangements include sprinklers. It is not however a legal requirement for schools to be fitted with sprinkler systems and we do not hold information on the number of new schools not fitted with sprinklers.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations his Department has received on mandatory installation of fire sprinklers in new schools. [318630]

Mr. Coaker: On 19 May 2009, my right hon. Friend the Member for Makerfield (Mr. McCartney) led an Adjournment debate on fire safety in schools at which this issue was discussed. I subsequently met my hon. Friend and colleagues on 22 October. We have also received representations from the Chief Fire Officers Association and the National Fire Sprinkler Network; and parliamentary questions have been asked in the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

Our policy remains that introduced by my right hon. Friend the Member for South Dorset (Jim Knight), when he was Schools Minister. In March 2007 he announced the Government's policy on sprinklers and their value as a measure against arson by saying:

> "It is now our expectation that all new schools will have fire sprinklers installed. However, we do not intend to make this a compulsory measure. There may be a few cases where local authorities or other promoters of schools consider that sprinklers are not needed. If so, they will need to be able to demonstrate that such schools are low risk and that sprinklers would not represent good value for money."

Schools: Offensive Weapons

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many incidents of pupils carrying a dangerous weapon into school were reported in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* the latest year for which figures are available. [317820]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Data on the number of incidents of pupils carrying a dangerous weapon into school are not collected at a national level.

Schools: Snow and Ice

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make an assessment of the extent to which anxiety about liability for slipping injuries influenced decisions on school closures during the recent severe weather episode. [317508]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Government do not collect data on the reasons for which schools close during severe weather, and there is no duty on schools to advise the Government why they closed.

The Department's guidance to schools about planning for, and responding to severe weather urges them to take a proportionate approach, balancing any risks arising from less supervision and minor slips and bumps against disruption to pupils' learning.

Schools: Standards

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools were rated good with outstanding features at the most recent point for which inspection data are available. [318481]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 22 February 2010:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

Ofsted's rating system is based on only four judgements for overall effectiveness where 1 is outstanding; 2 is good; 3 is satisfactory; and 4 is inadequate. Schools are not rated good with outstanding features. Some inspectors might use this phrase in the text of their reports; we do not hold figures for this.

Consequently, this response considers maintained schools which were judged as good for overall effectiveness at their last inspection and where at least one of the other judgements made was outstanding.

The latest period for which published figures about maintained school section 5 inspection outcomes are available is the academic year 2008/09. This answer, therefore, takes into account inspections carried out prior to 1 September 2009.

At 1 December 2009 there were 22,260 schools open and eligible for a section 5 Ofsted inspection. Of these, 21,920 had received at least one section 5 inspection. These schools, together with their latest inspection judgements, form the basis for the response.

Of the 21,920 schools, 11,033 (50%) were judged as good for overall effectiveness at the last inspection. Of these, 8,704 (79%) received at least one judgement of outstanding.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and placed in the library of both Houses.

Schools: Vocational Guidance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his assessment is of the effectiveness of careers services offered in schools; what recent steps he has taken to improve them; and how much has been spent on them in each year since 1997. [318197]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* The best schools, working in partnership with local authority services, provide excellent support for their pupils to help them to make decisions about learning and careers but the quality across all schools is variable. We published our strategy to improve information, advice and guidance (Quality, Choice and Aspiration) in October 2009. Alongside the strategy we published statutory guidance for schools, setting out clear expectations for the provision of high quality impartial information about learning options, which promotes the best interests of pupils.

The way that provision of careers services has been funded has changed in the period since 1997, with the establishment of the Connexions service and, more recently, local authorities assuming responsibility for the provision of information, advice and guidance. Funding has been provided to Connexions/Careers Services as set out in the following table:

	Funding (£ million)	To
1997-98	192	[1]Careers services
1998-99	210	Careers Services
1999-00	223	Careers Services
2000-01	233	Careers Services
2001-02	116	[2]Connexions
	173	Careers Services
2002-03	337	Connexions
	52	Careers Services
2003-04	439	Connexions
2004-05	458	Connexions
2005-06	464	Connexions
2006-07	466	Connexions
2007-08	467	Connexions
2008-09	469	[3]Connexions
2009-10	467	Connexions

[1] Prior to 2001, Careers Services provided advice and guidance on careers and related issues.

[2] From April 2001 Connexions was introduced in a staged way and the Department provided funding to Connexions Partnerships for the delivery of Connexions services for young people.

[3] From April 2008 local authorities have received funding for Connexions services, which advise young people on a range of issues including careers, as part of their Area Based Grant.

Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 29 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 610W, on secondary education, how many schools in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area there were in each category in each year. [318588]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 25 February 2010]:* The answer to this question has been placed in the Library.

Secondary Education: Pupil Numbers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 29 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 610W, on secondary education, how many such schools there were in each local authority area in each year. [318486]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* The answer to this question has been placed in the Library.

Teachers: Pay

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average salary of a teacher in *(a)* Blackpool, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England was in the latest year for which information is available. [319535]

Mr. Coaker: The following table shows the average salary of regular qualified teachers in service in local authority maintained schools in Blackpool and Lancashire local authorities and England. March 2008 the latest information available.

Average salary of full-time regular qualified teachers in local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary, special schools and pupil referral units, January 2008[1] Coverage: Blackpool and Lancashire local authorities and England

	Average salary (£)
Blackpool	35,100
Lancashire	35,800
England	35,900

[1] Provisional

Source:

Database of Teacher Records Figures are rounded to the nearest £100

Truancy: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the unauthorised absence rate was for pupils in Salford in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [317385]

Mr. Coaker: The available information is shown in the table for 1996/97 and 2007/08. Information for 2008/09 is expected to be published in spring 2010.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3], percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence 1996/97 and 2007/08[4]: Salford parliamentary constituency

	Percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence[5]
1996/97	2.02
2007/08	2.17

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).

[3] Includes maintained and non maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Figures for 1996/97 have been sourced from the Absence in Schools Survey. Figures for 2007/08 are derived from the School Census.

[5] The number of sessions missed due to unauthorised absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

Source:

Absence in Schools Survey and School Census (see note 4).

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 24 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 650W, on Education Maintenance Allowance and the answer from the Minister for Further Education, Apprenticeships and Consumer Affairs of 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 987W, on the Learning and Skills Council for England's correspondence, if he will review his Department's processes to ensure that all letters from the Learning and Skills Council in response to Parliamentary Questions are sent to the Editor of the *Official Report* for publication. [319985]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have reviewed the process for responses to parliamentary questions with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Service standards have been agreed between my Department and the LSC, setting out that responses should be sent to the Editor of the *Official Report* within 10 working days of receipt.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 3 March 2010

PRIME MINISTER

Detainees

Mr. Hague: To ask the Prime Minister with reference to the statement of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 55-6WS, on detainees, how many cases of potential criminal wrongdoing have been referred to the Attorney-General since March 2009; and if he will make a statement. [318805]

The Prime Minister: Since March 2009 one further case has been referred to the Attorney-General, as set out in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the right hon. Gentleman on 11 September 2009.

CABINET OFFICE

10 Downing Street

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 508W, on departmental official hospitality, on what date *(a)* Mr. Derek Draper, *(b)* Mr. Charlie Whelan and *(c)* Mr. Damian McBride last entered the Downing Street/Cabinet Office complex as a visitor. [318328][1]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer given on 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 877W.

Deaths: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths of *(a)* men and *(b)* women attributable to the effects of alcohol there were in each local authority area in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [320047]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths of (a) men and (b) women attributable to alcohol misuse there were in each local authority area in each of the last five years for which figures are available. (320047)

The tables provide the number of deaths where the underlying cause was alcohol-related for (a) males (Table 1) and (b) females (Table 2), in each local authority in England and Wales, for the years 2004 to 2008 (the latest year available). Copies have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Internationally accepted guidance from the World Health Organisation requires only those conditions that contributed directly to the death to be recorded on the death certificate. Medical practitioners and coroners are not supposed to record all of the diseases or conditions present at or before death, and whether a condition contributed is a matter for their clinical judgement. Lifestyle and behavioural factors, such as the deceased's alcohol consumption, are not recorded.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many computer keyboards purchased by her Department have been replaced owing to damage in each of the last 12 months. [319638]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office IT services are outsourced to Fujitsu Services Ltd. Keyboards are provided as part of that service and replaced by the supplier when they are faulty. In the last 12 months there have been 100 replacements. The following table shows how many have been replaced in each of the last 12 months:

	Number
March 2009	10
April 2009	10
May 2009	12
June 2009	8
July 2009	12
August 2009	8
September 2009	8
October 2009	8
November 2009	9
December 2009	5
January 2010	5
February 2010	5

Honours

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the Prime Minister's speech at Britain's Everyday Heroes Book Launch of 24 July 2007, what steps she has taken to reform the honours system to recognise more widely citizens' contributions to civic society since July 2007. [318355]

Tessa Jowell: Following his speech on 24 July 2007, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister wrote to all Cabinet colleagues asking them to do more to emphasise, when considering candidates for honours, the role played by volunteers and others who serve the community. The Cabinet Secretary, as Chair of the Main Honours Committee, wrote to the Chairs of the eight Independent Honours Selection Committees repeating this strategic guidance. Government Departments and all those involved in the honours process are reminded of this guidance on a regular basis. In the New Year's Honours List 2010, 73 per cent. of all awards went to people working in the community.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 556W, on Equality and Human Rights Commission: industrial disputes, how much the Commission has spent to date on *(a)* internal courses, *(b)* external courses and *(c)* external trainers for staff training for employment tribunal litigation and process. [319748]

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[1] *[Official Report, 9 March 2010, Vol. 507, c. 3MC.]*

Maria Eagle: The total spent since the inception of the Commission on the 1 October 2007 on staff training for employment tribunal litigation and process is £210. This was for an external course—part of the Law Society mandatory Continuous Professional Development requirement for Solicitors.

Commission staff receive support from the Commission's in-house Corporate Law Team, which provides advice, guidance and support in relation to employment tribunal litigation and process.

Dignity At Work Policy: Accompanying Communications Strategy

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will place in the Library a copy of the Equality and Human Rights Commission's *(a)* Dignity at Work policy and *(b)* accompanying communications strategy. [319625]

Maria Eagle: The Commission's Dignity at Work policy has not yet been finalised. It is due to be completed in March 2010. When the policy has been finalised I will place a copy in the Library, together with any accompanying communications strategy.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Energy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Solicitor-General what steps the Law Officers' Departments plan to take to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. [319100]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General's Office and Treasury Solicitor's Department have registered to participate in Earth Hour on Saturday 27 March 2010, and will be taking active steps to ensure that all non-essential lighting is powered down during the event.

The remaining Law Officers' Departments have not actively pledged to take part in the event but most have existing systems in place to ensure that all non-essential power is switched off during the weekend.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Solicitor-General how many thefts from the Law Officers' Departments have been recorded in the last two years. [318990]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments have recorded 64 instances of theft during the last two years.

Special Advocates

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 245W, on special advocates, in how many cases special advocates were used; on how many court or tribunal days special advocates were used; and what the total cost of the use of special advocates was in each of the categories listed in the question. [318930]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

TRANSPORT

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 644W, on parking fines, which local authorities use automatic number plate recognition technology for *(a)* civil parking enforcement and *(b)* traffic lane enforcement, according to records held by his Department; and on what date each local authority was certified to use such technology. [319801]

Mr. Khan: Automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) technology is not a required feature of a civil enforcement system, and any system that relied solely on ANPR evidence would not comply with the relevant legislation. Although the Department for Transport does not require information about the use of ANPR in all circumstances, our records show that the following local authorities use ANPR to assist the visual identification of vehicles when the evidence is reviewed and, in some cases, to prompt the recording of evidence.

(a) Traffic Management Act 2004—civil parking enforcement

Applicant	*"Approved Device" certification granted*
Nottingham city council	16 June 2008
London borough of Hackney	30 March 2009
Bournemouth borough council	9 June 2009
Basildon district council	7 July 2009

(b) Transport Act 2000—civil bus lane enforcement

Traffic authority	*"Approved Device" certification granted*
Nottingham city council	20 December 2007
London borough of Hackney	30 March 2009
Reading borough council	6 July 2009
Essex county council	28 July 2009
Bournemouth borough council	21 October 2009
Bath and North East Somerset council	19 November 2009
Liverpool city council	5 January 2010

Cars: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many registered car owners there were in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex in each year since 1997. [320605]

Paul Clark: The following table provides the number of licensed private cars registered within the local authorities of *(a)* Southend-on-Sea and *(b)* the county of Essex on the 31 December each year from 1997 to 2008.

		Number
	Southend-on-Sea	*Essex*
1997	58,235	538,188
1998	59,337	551,774
1999	61,057	569,300
2000	62,075	587,935
2001	64,093	608,629
2002	65,945	623,752
2003	67,517	627,595
2004	68,696	638,334
2005	69,465	648,379
2006	69,844	656,613
2007	70,196	665,074
2008	70,604	672,265

The Department for Transport holds no specific information on registered car owners and it should be noted that individual car owners may own multiple cars.

Data for 2009 will be published at the end of April 2010.

Driving Offences: Local Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many cases heard by the Traffic Penalty Tribunal were brought by local authorities in respect of their own vehicles in the last 36 months. [319803]

Mr. Khan: This information is not held by central Government.

Driving under Influence: Crime Prevention

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of instances of drink driving. [319753]

Paul Clark: There is stringent legislation around drink driving, with a minimum 12 month ban for drivers found over the prescribed alcohol limit for driving. We have worked closely with the police on enforcement, such as equipping police forces with new digital breathalysers, and in making the links between police campaigns and our drink-drive advertising. This long-term strategy has helped deliver more than a 75 per cent. reduction in drink-drive related deaths and serious injuries since 1980.

The Government consulted last year on a number of further measures to reduce drink-related casualties in the Road Safety Compliance document, the results of which will feed into the Government's post-2010 Road Safety Strategy to be published later this year.

The Department for Transport also announced in December that it had commissioned an independent review of drink and drug driving legislation. As far as drink driving is concerned, the review, led by Sir Peter North, is examining the case for changes to the current provisions, including options for reducing the legal alcohol limit for drivers. The study is also considering the likely impact of such changes on driver behaviour. Sir Peter has been asked to report by the end of March and the Government will then consult on his findings before finalising and publishing the new road safety strategy.

Copies of the Road Safety Compliance consultation document and the terms of reference for the North review have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

In addition to these steps, the Department for Transport is developing a new multi-media publicity campaign targeting drivers who continue to mix drinking and driving. We are aiming to launch the campaign in summer 2010.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will make it his policy to collect information on the country of issue of driving licences held by drivers involved in traffic accidents. [319161]

Paul Clark: The collection of information about driving licences held by drivers involved in traffic accidents was considered as part of the latest review of personal injury road casualties statistics collected by the police on behalf of the Department. The review has to consider user needs against the additional burden and practicality of collection. A copy of the summary review report, published on 4 February 2010, has been placed in the House Library.

The review proposed a new variable to identify whether a driver has a valid licence. No further details of the licence, including country of issue, will be collected as part of the statistics form. The introduction of a new electronic collision reporting system for the police from 2011 may enable further information on driving licences held by drivers involved in traffic accidents to be obtained in the future.

Exhaust Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the total carbon dioxide emissions from trains in the last 10 years; and what projection he has made of such emissions from trains in the next *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20 and *(c)* 50 years. [317025]

Mr. Khan: Rail carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions for the last 10 years can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate_change/gg_emissions/uk_emissions/2008_final/2008_final.aspx

The source of the data is AEA/Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

Projected CO_2 (ktonnes) emissions in GB, as published in the Carbon Pathways Analysis document by the Department for Transport, are shown in the following table:

	2014		*2020*		*2022*	
	Min	*Max*	*Min*	*Max*	*Min*	*Max*
Passenger rail	2,730	2,895	2,988	3,136	3,018	3,168
Passenger rail electric	1,450	1,540	1,584	1,665	1,596	1,678

	2014		*2020*		*2022*	
	Min	*Max*	*Min*	*Max*	*Min*	*Max*
Passenger rail—diesel	1,280	1,355	1,404	1,472	1,422	1,491
Freight rail	569	600	607	640	618	651
Total rail	3,298	3,495	3,594	3,776	3,636	3,819

Source:
Carbon Pathways Analysis, Figure 2.10, page 33
http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/analysis.pdf

Projected carbon emissions are on a different basis from the historic figures. The former are based on data from the Office of Rail Regulation, while the latter are from the UK's Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the total carbon dioxide emissions from *(a)* domestic and *(b)* international aviation in the UK in the last 10 years; and what projection he has made of the emissions from (i) domestic and (ii) international aviation in the UK in the next (A) 10, (B) 20 and (C) 50 years. [317026]

Mr. Khan: Aviation carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions for the last 10 years can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate_chanqe/gg_emissions/uk_emissions/2008final/2008_final.aspx

The source of the data is AEA/Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

The following table shows the Departments latest forecasts for international, domestic and total CO_2 emissions from flights departing from UK airports in 10, 20 and 50 years.

Aviation emission forecasts:

			Million tonnes
	2020	*2030*	*2060*
Total International CO_2	47.1	54.5	54.0
Total Domestic CO_2	3.2	3.9	5.0
Total CO_2	50.3	58.4	59.0

Notes:
1. Data are for UK departures only.
2. These forecasts refer to the central demand scenario s12s2, with Stansted R2 in 2015 and Heathrow R3 around 2020, as presented in "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts", January 2009.
3. These CO_2 forecasts include freight, APU and a residual adjustment to ensure consistency with the DECC outturn estimate.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the total carbon dioxide emissions from road transport in the last 10 years; and what projection he has made of such emissions from road transport in the next *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20 and *(c)* 50 years. [317028]

Mr. Khan: Road transport carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions for the last 10 years can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate_change/gg_emissions/uk_emissions/2008_final/2008_final.aspx

The source of the data is AEA/Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

The Department for Transport's most recent forecasts of total road transport carbon dioxide emissions for England were produced as part of the road transport forecasts for 2010, 2015, and 2025. These are available in 'Road Traffic Forecasts 2008: Results from the Department for Transport's National Transport Model' which is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/economics/ntm/roadtransportforecasts08/rtf08.pdf

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Syms: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he has made an estimate of the number of *(a)* pedestrians and *(b)* cyclists injured in road traffic accidents in which the use of a personal music device was a contributory factor in the last five years. [320378]

Paul Clark: The information requested is not collected by the Department for Transport.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road traffic accidents were recorded in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend in each year since 1997. [320645]

Paul Clark: The information requested is given in the following table.

Reported personal injury road accidents in Essex and Southend: 1997 to 2008

	Essex[1]	*Southend*
1997	6,886	692
1998	6,821	698
1999	6,843	717
2000	6,985	745
2001	6,773	686
2002	6,408	656
2003	6,182	612
2004	6,131	571
2005	5,595	540
2006	5,330	523
2007	5,004	466
2008	4,455	450

[1] Essex county, including the unitary authorities of Southend and Thurrock

Roads: Tolls

Mr. Scott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on a national satellite-based road pricing scheme. [319661]

Mr. Khan: Department for Transport Ministers last had discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on a national satellite-based road pricing scheme in the context of the Budget 2008 announcement of an invitation to the private sector to run a number of projects based on charging by time of day, distance travelled and route chosen.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking towards the achievement of public service agreement 28 on ambient air quality. [320000]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the delivery agreement document for this public service agreement (PSA) published in October 2007 DEFRA said it will take forward actions under the UK air quality strategy and implement the EU air quality directives.

The Department will also take forward the review of the national air quality strategy to identify potential new policy measures to provide further health benefits and help move closer towards the strategy's air quality objectives. DEFRA will integrate environmental objectives, such as air quality targets, and sustainable development into policies and practice, and promote these across government, the UK and internationally. DEFRA will continue to work with partners in the EU and internationally on actions and measures to tackle national and transboundary air pollution.

Further detail on the PSA is available in the Treasury booklet "PSA Delivery Agreement 28: Secure a healthy natural environment for today and the future" available from the Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr_csr07_psa28.pdf

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which areas of the country he expects to be compliant with EU limits on ambient air concentrations of particulates and nitrogen oxide at the conclusion of the term of the renewable energy strategy. [320001]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The renewable energy strategy is the Government's comprehensive action plan for achieving the UK's share of the EU 2020 renewable energy target. It was published in July 2009 alongside the low carbon transition plan.

Projections of air quality, which exclude the impact of the renewable energy strategy, indicate that the UK is expected to be in full compliance with limit values for particulate matter in 2020, and that exceedences of limit values for nitrogen dioxide will be confined to a small number of roadside locations in London. These exceedences are associated with road transport emission sources.

Emission projections, which include policies contained within the low carbon transition plan and the renewable energy strategy, indicate a small net increase in the emission of oxides of nitrogen due to increased uptake in combined heat and power units, and no change in relation to emissions of particulate matter. While a full exceedences assessment has not yet been undertaken based on these emissions projections, it is thought unlikely that there will be any impact on the extent of limit value exceedences in 2020.

DEFRA and DECC have worked closely to identify policies within the renewable energy strategy that may impact on air quality. For example, the renewable heat incentive proposes a maximum emissions standard for biomass boilers below 20MW to minimise any detrimental impact on air quality in urban areas.

Fertiliser Industry Assurance Scheme

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the cost to his Department of the fees charged by Product Authentication International in respect of the Fertiliser Industry Assurance scheme. [319441]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In respect of the Fertiliser Industry Assurance scheme, the companies participating in the scheme pay for the fees charged by Product Authentication International. For this reason, there are no costs to DEFRA or any Government Department.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his latest assessment is of the financial effects on individual farms of the Fertiliser Industry Assurance scheme; and if he will make a statement. [319442]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Fertiliser Industry Assurance scheme has no direct financial effect on individual farms. The scheme was designed specifically for the fertiliser supply chain. For this reason, there are no individual farms signed up as members of the scheme.

Food: Public Sector

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department provides to public sector bodies on procuring meat and dairy products that are free range or produced to standards equivalent to those of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Freedom Food scheme. [319537]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Guidance produced under DEFRA's Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative encourages all public sector bodies to, and shows how they can, specify higher animal welfare standards, including farm assurance schemes and higher level schemes such as the RSPCA's Freedom Foods standards.

Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* functions and *(b)* purposes are of (i) the Waste and Resources Action Programme and (ii) the Waste Improvement Network; and whether each body has provided guidance to local authorities on (A) adopting alternate weekly rubbish collections and (B) restricting residual refuse container capacity. [319733]

Dan Norris: The Waste Improvement Network is a service for local authority waste officers and members. It provides information, advice, guidance and support to its members, including networking possibilities and advice on working in partnerships.

The Waste Improvement Network does not provide advice on the issues listed in the question, but it does share information and good practice between councils and to that end it has published surveys and case studies on the impact of restricting residual waste i.e. on increasing recycling and reducing overall waste arisings per household.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) works with businesses and individuals to help them reap the benefits of reducing waste and develop sustainable products and use resources in an efficient way. It is WRAP's aim to create the case for change, support change and deliver change. WRAP's Business Plan is available on the WRAP website and provides more information about its functions and purposes. WRAP, through its local authority support programme, also provides direct support and advice to individual local authorities on all aspects of their collection and recycling services. Advice is provided at the request of local authorities and this has included advising on options for improving recycling and reducing refuse.

WRAP published guidance on alternate weekly collections in July 2007. This guidance makes reference to other options for restricting refuse capacity including that of maintaining weekly collections but providing smaller containers for refuse. This guidance document is also available on the WRAP website.

Waste Disposal: East of England

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has given to the East of England Waste Prevention Network since that body's inception. [319621]

Dan Norris: DEFRA has provided no funding to the East of England Waste Prevention Network.

WRAP has not provided any funding to the East of England Waste Prevention Network, but did provide the Network with consultancy support and advice on local communications and promotional activities linked to the East of England's involvement in the European Week for Waste Reduction in November 2009.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Malaria

11. **David Tredinnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to control malaria in developing countries. [319874]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK remains strongly committed to tackling malaria.

That is why the Prime Minister committed in 2008 to provide over 20 million bednets by the end of 2010 and to help prevent 110,000 child deaths, and our 2009 White Paper committed to provide an additional 10 million bednets each year to 2013.

By the end of 2009, we had provided over 14 million bednets, preventing over 80,000 child deaths.

Jamaica and Nigeria: Development Aid

12. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much development aid his Department gave to Jamaica and Nigeria in the last 12 months. [319875]

Mr. Thomas: The amount of bilateral aid provided b the Department for International Development (DFID to Jamaica was £3.6 million and to Nigeria was £110. million in 2008-09.

Gleneagles Summit 2005

13. **Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State fo International Development what recent assessment h has made of progress towards implementing thos recommendations of the Africa Commission which wer adopted at the Gleneagles summit in 2005. [319877

Mr. Michael Foster: We regularly monitor progres against the commitments made at Gleneagles. Alon with the other G8 countries, we are producing ar accountability report on this progress in time for th next G8 summit in Canada. This will include the Gleneagle commitments and the other development commitment made by the G8 since 2005.

14. **Mr. Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State fo International Development what recent discussions he has had with his G8 counterparts on progress toward meeting commitments made at Gleneagles in 2005. [319878]

Mr. Michael Foster: Last week the Secretary of State for International Development met with Minister Beverley Oda to discuss issues including the aid volume commitment made at Gleneagles. The European Union's Gleneagles commitments were also discussed at the Informal Meeting of EU Development Ministers at La Granja, attended by the Minister of State. While there he also had bilaterals with German Development Minister Niebel and European Development Commissioner Piebalgs. The UK will meet its aid volume commitments and continue to press others to meet their own commitments.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Curry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department *(a)* allocated to each Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and Creditor Reporting System code in each of its bilateral country programmes in each of the last five years and *(b)* intends to allocate to each such code for each such programme in each of the next three years. [319483]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Creditor Reporting System (CRS) is overseen by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Full details of the UK return for calendar years up to 2008 are available directly from the OECD website at

http://stats.oecd.org/qwids/

A breakdown of the allocations of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) aid for 2009 or for future years cannot be provided at this level of detail without incurring disproportionate cost. Information on 2009 flows is due to be provided to the DAC in July.

Mr. Curry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department *(a)* allocated and *(b)* disbursed for (i) agriculture and (ii) food security through (A) bilateral expenditure,

(B) multilateral contributions and (C) research in each of the last five years; and how much it intends to disburse in each such case in each of the next three years. [319484]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details of funds disbursed by the Department for International Development (DFID) for agriculture and food security in each of the last five financial years are provided in the following table. DFID does not record funds allocated but not disbursed. These figures do not include spending on emergency humanitarian food aid.

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Bilateral					
Agriculture (incl. Fisheries)	72	55	74	52	64
Agriculture and RNR Research	36	33	26	27	33
Food Aid and Food Security	16	18	19	36	51
Rural Development	9	26	25	49	56
Rural Roads	—	—	—	—	10
Total Bilateral	133	132	145	164	214
Multilateral					
Agriculture (incl. Fisheries)	42	38	109	95	124
Agriculture (incl. Fisheries) Research	5	4	2	4	1
Food Security	26	31	27	19	14
Rural Development	25	20	29	19	22
Total Multilateral	98	93	166	138	161
Total DFID Expenditure Ag and FS	231	225	312	301	375
Basic Nutrition	1	1	2	9	13
Total DFID Expenditure Ag and FS (inc. Nutrition)	232	226	314	311	388

The UK Government have committed to spend £1.1 billion on agriculture and food security between 2009-10 and 2011-12. This commitment does not include spending on basic nutrition or emergency humanitarian food aid.

Falkland Islands: Oil

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will apply the rules of the extractive industries transparency initiative in relation to any oil that may be discovered in the Falkland Islands. [320104]

Mr. Michael Foster: If oil is discovered in the Falkland Islands, any revenues generated will be subject to the same rules applied by the UK Government to other revenue received from extractive industries.

The UK Government publish all information on revenue received from oil and gas industries, including taxation revenues and this available on the HM Revenue and Customs website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/index.htm

The UK practice of disclosure of revenue information is in line with the principles of the extractive industries transparency initiative.

South Africa: Natural Resources

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will propose a joint commitment by the UK and South Africa to implement the extractive industries transparency initiative. [320105]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK Government support the extractive industries transparency initiative (EITI) and collaborates with the EITI Board and Secretariat to promote the adoption and implementation of the initiative by resource rich countries. The EITI Chairman, Peter Eigen, has recently written to President Zuma encouraging South African implementation. The UK Government have no plans to propose to the president of South Africa a joint commitment by the UK and South Africa to implement the initiative.

Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions his Department has had with the government of Sri Lanka on humanitarian issues. [319876]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for international Development (DFID) remains in regular contact with the Government of Sri Lanka on humanitarian issues. The British high commissioner to Sri Lanka and our humanitarian adviser in Colombo frequently discuss issues of concern with Government representatives and the Presidential Task Force for the Development of the North. The Foreign Secretary also raised humanitarian issues with Foreign Minister Bogollogama when they last spoke on 5 February.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Atomic Energy Authority: Pay

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the salary was of the Chief Executive of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority in 2007. [319810]

Mr. Kidney: Details of remuneration for the UK Atomic Energy Authority's directors are disclosed in its annual reports and accounts.

Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 735W, on the Carbon Reduction Commitment energy efficiency scheme, what estimate he has made of the maximum potential cost to a local authority at the bottom of the Carbon Reduction Commitment league table; whether he has made an assessment of the potential effect on levels of council tax bills of that scheme; and whether those costs will be classified a new burden. [319738]

Joan Ruddock: The Government have assessed the potential burdens of the CRC energy efficiency scheme on local authorities, and has determined that it will not constitute a new burden. Local authorities already report reductions in CO_2 emissions from their estate against National Indicator 185.

Our analysis indicates that participating local authorities should, on average, see savings through reduced energy bills outweighing administrative costs and the cost of investing in energy efficiency measures. The potential savings on energy bills are far higher than the costs incurred through CRC penalties for those at the bottom of the league table.

Climate Change: Seas and Oceans

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely change in sea levels attributable to climate change after 2100; and if he will make a statement. [319969]

Joan Ruddock: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fourth Assessment Report indicates that, after 2100, sea levels will continue to rise for centuries to come, mainly because of continued thermal expansion of the oceans. However, the magnitude of this rise cannot be predicted precisely because it depends on a number of factors, including the effects of future greenhouse gas emissions on temperature increases and the dynamics of ice sheet melting.

The Netherlands Delta Committee report, published in 2008, estimated that thermal expansion and the likely contribution from land-based ice melt could cause global sea level rises in a range from 1.5 to 3 metres by 2200, compared to levels at the end of the last century. Urgent mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions would reduce projected sea level rise but not prevent it beyond 2100, so adaptation to sea level rise would also be needed.

Combined Heat and Power

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many micro-combined heat and power installations he expects to participate in the feed-in tariff scheme. [319793]

Joan Ruddock: A microCHP "pilot"—for installations with an electrical capacity of 2kW or less—will be included as part of the feed-in tariff scheme and will provide support for the uptake of up to 30,000 domestic scale microCHP installations. Because the industry is yet to become established we will review the support level as soon as 12,000 installations are reached, which we expect to be (based on industry projections) sometime in mid-2012.

Electricity Generation

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State fo Energy and Climate Change how much energy generate from *(a)* coal, *(b)* gas and *(c)* nuclear sources wa supplied to the National Grid in each week of Januar 2010. [31995

Mr. Kidney: Official electricity generation data ar only available on a monthly basis. The latest data are fo December 2009, when major power producers supplie 14,899 GWh from gas, 8,345 GWh from coal an 5,229 GWh from nuclear. electricity output data fo January 2010 will be available on 25 March 2010.

Official monthly electricity data taken from tabl ET5.4, at:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/source/electricity/electricity.aspx

Energy Supply

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with which energy companies he has discussed the potential contributions of oil shale to the UK's energy supply; and when he expects the British Geological Survey to complete its reassessment of potential oil and gas shale resources in the UK. [32008

Mr. Kidney: We have had no discussions on this issue. However my Department has asked the British Geological Survey, acting as consultants, to carry out a reassessment of potential oil and gas shale resources in the UK. We expect the results of this to be published in the second half of this year and will be making these available via DECC's Oil and Gas "Promote" website at the following address:

https://www.og.decc.gov.uk/UKpromote/index.htm

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households resident in Stroud constituency have received assistance under the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme since its inception. [318977]

Mr. Kidney: The following table provides information as to how many households resident in Stroud have received assistance from the Warm Front Scheme[1] since its inception.

[1] The Home Energy Efficiency Scheme which begun in 1991 was rebranded to the Warm Front Scheme in 2000.

Stroud constituency

	Number
2000-01	119
2001-02	170
2002-03	168
2003-04	211
2004-05	199
2005-06	190
2006-07	231
2007-08	242
2008-09	347
2009-10[1]	259
Total	2,136

[1] Up to 31 January 2010

Energy: Housing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the take-up rate of home energy efficiency improvements in the Energy Savings Trust Penistone area project has been to date; and which such improvements are *(a)* free of charge and *(b)* made at a cost to the householder. [319734]

Joan Ruddock: The total take-up of home energy efficiency improvements in the Energy Saving Trust Penistone area project is 273. Of the total, 121 of these have been free and the balance, 152, have been provided at cost to the customer.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the take-up rate of home energy efficiency improvements in the Home Energy Efficiency programme trials has been to date; and which such improvements are *(a)* free of charge and *(b)* made at a cost to the householder. [319735]

Mr. Kidney: The Warm Front scheme[1] (Home Energy Efficiency scheme) is currently piloting the installation of 100 air source heat pumps and 100 installations of external wall insulation for park homes. The scheme has also piloted the installation of solar thermal heating for 125 households. The cost of these installations is fully funded by the scheme, at no cost to the participating households.

Feed-in Tariffs

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of public *(a)* awareness of and *(b)* opinion on the effects on energy bills of the implementation of a feed-in-tariff scheme. [319566]

Joan Ruddock: The Government recognise that a number of its energy and climate change policies may have significant effects on energy bills. As such, analysis carried out to estimate the overall impacts on average domestic and non-domestic energy bills of the policies set out in the low carbon transition plan (including the feed-in-tariff scheme) was presented in the accompanying analytical annex. Consultation on the feed in tariff (from 15 July 2009 to 15 October 2009) received over 733 responses, 53 per cent. of which were from individuals, indicating there is considerable awareness of the scheme and its impacts.

Revised figures were published in the final impact assessment which accompanied the Government's response to the consultation.

Fuel Oil

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what recent representations he has received on the delay in the delivery of domestic heating oil to consumers; and if he will introduce measures to bring the regulation of domestic heating oil providers within the remit of Ofgem; [319707]

(2) what assessment he has made of the delay in the delivery of domestic heating oil as a consequence of the Christmas and new year holidays and of the snow in January and February 2010. [319843]

Mr. Kidney: Demand for heating oil increases in cold weather. Oil distributors worked hard in challenging conditions, particularly in more remote parts of the country, to supply customers during the worst cold weather experienced for 29 years. DECC officials received representations from the Federation of Petroleum Suppliers (FPS) that heating oil distributors were facing increases in demand—at higher rates than they could make deliveries in large part as a result of the difficulties of access to properties due to ice and snow. DECC officials worked closely with FPS so that the enforcement of drivers' hours rules could be temporarily relaxed to enable deliveries to be made to customers as conditions improved.

With regard to the question of Ofgem, the Government do not believe that bringing these fuels under regulations having similar scope to the Gas and Electricity Acts would be an appropriate and proportionate form of regulation. These Acts deal with markets where there are natural monopolies which mean that competition cannot be expected on its own to protect consumers from the risk of exploitation. In contrast, there is no natural monopoly in the distribution of heating oil. In the UK there are around 200 different fuel distributors each with a national, regional or local presence, with competition between the companies involved. Overall, the Government support the retention of a competitive market for heating oil, believing this to be in the best interests of all customers. Both general consumer protection legislation, such as the Sale of Goods Act and Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations, and competition law apply to this sector.

Natural Gas: Imports

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what projection his Department has made of the proportion of UK gas demand that will be met by imports in *(a)* 2012, *(b)* 2015 and *(c)* 2020. [320359]

Mr. Kidney: Projections of net annual UK gas import dependency in *(b)* 2015 (43 per cent.) and *(c)* 2020 (45 per cent.) were published in July 2009 in Table 19 of the analytical annex to "The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan" which is (only) available online at

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/publications/lc_trans_plan/lc_trans_plan.aspx

The equivalent estimate for *(a)* 2012 is 39 per cent. These projections of net annual import dependency are in line with the projections of post-transition plan net UK gas demand and net UK gas production shown in chart 22 of the analytical annex. The Department updates its projections of both UK gas demand and production from time to time so these estimates of future import dependency are subject to revision.

Renewable Energy

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what figures are represented in chart *(a)* 2.1 on page 39 and *(b)* 2.4 on page 44 of The UK Renewable Energy Strategy, Cm 7686. [320362]

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[1] The Home Energy Efficiency scheme which begun in 1991 was rebranded to the Warm Front scheme in 2000.

Mr. Kidney: The data behind the charts referred to come from the analysis for the Renewable Energy Strategy. They are reproduced in tabular format as follows. A copy of this PQ will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Data behind chart 2.1 on page 39 of the Renewable Energy Strategy—renewable energy deployment in TWh of energy generation/use

	2008	2020 (current policies)	2020 (new policies)
Renewable heat	7.3	7.5	72.1
Renewable transport	9.3	23.1	49.4
Renewable electricity	22.3	55.6	117.0
Total	38.9	86.1	238.5

Note:

Electricity includes non RO

Data behind chart 2.4 on page 44 of the Renewable Energy Strategy—renewable electricity deployment in GW of installed capacity

	2008	2020
Onshore Wind	2.8	14.4
Offshore Wind	0.6	13.0
Bioenergy	1.7	3.3
Wave and Tidal	0.0	1.3
Hydro	1.6	2.1
Other	0.0	0.2
Small Scale electricity (non RO)	0.0	3.8
Total	6.8	38.2

UK-Indonesia Working Group on Environment and Climate Change

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding he has allocated to the work of the UK-Indonesia Working Group on Environment and Climate Change; when and where the group will next meet; and which civil society organisations are expected to participate in the group. [320090]

Joan Ruddock: In this financial year (2009-10) DECC has allocated just over £18,500 to the work of the UK-Indonesia Working Group on Environment and Climate Change. The second meeting of the group will be hosted by the Indonesian Government in July 2010. This is a working group between the UK and Indonesian Governments and as such no civil society organisations are expected to participate in the meetings.

The UK Government have an overarching memorandum of understanding covering its work with Indonesia in addressing climate change. Provision is made within this for enhancing capacity building and engagement of key stakeholders, including civil society, compatible with strategic directions developed under the Indonesian National Climate Change Council.

WALES

Departmental Advertising

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in 2009. [319585]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not have any non-departmental public bodies or executive agencies, and we have not spent anything on advertising in 2009.

Departmental Plants

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on pot plants in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [319208]

Mr. Hain: Nil.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many thefts from his Department have been recorded in the last two years. [318992]

Mr. Hain: During the last two years there has been one recorded theft from my Department.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Alcoholic Drinks

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated research on the proportion of accident and emergency admissions on Friday and Saturday nights attributable to alcohol-related incidents. [319603]

Gillian Merron: The Department has not commissioned research on the proportion of alcohol-related accident and emergency (A&E) attendances on Friday and Saturday nights. However, in March 2008, as part of its review of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003, the Government looked at the impact of alcohol and the new licensing act on A&E services.

The review noted that

> "Alcohol-related demands on A&E services appear to have been stable in aggregate, though some individual hospitals have seen increased demand, others a fall."

Autism: Health Services

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assistance his Department plans to provide to local authorities and primary care trusts to develop *(a)* local autism teams and *(b)* local planning groups as part of implementation of the adult autism strategy; and if he will make a statement; [320003]

(2) when he will publish the delivery plan for the adult autism strategy; and if he will make a statement. [320004]

Phil Hope: It will be for each local area to develop its own commissioning plan for services for adults with autism—building on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

The delivery plan, scheduled for publication by the end of March 2010, will set out in more detail the timescale for delivery in the first year, including examples of possible structures for such boards, drawing on best practice that already exists around the country.

Further delivery plans will be prepared for the second and third years of the strategy.

Dementia

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place to identify people with dementia when they are admitted to general hospitals; and whether steps are taken to provide additional care for those people in respect of *(a)* dehydration and *(b)* confusion during their stay. [319924]

Phil Hope: The National Dementia Strategy calls for all acute trusts to identify a clinical lead for dementia to take the lead for quality improvements in dementia in hospitals, including the development of an explicit care pathway for the treatment and care of people with dementia in hospital.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what written information is provided to people with dementia and their carers *(a)* at the point of diagnosis and *(b)* by a general practitioner during subsequent consultations. [319925]

Phil Hope: Provision of information to people with dementia and their carers was identified as a priority in the National Dementia Strategy. The Strategy states that following diagnosis people with dementia should be given access to information. The demonstrator site pilots are also looking at how to provide information to people with dementia following a diagnosis.

The Department has commissioned the Alzheimer's Society to bring together evidence about information that people need following diagnosis and report back to the Department on what might be done to improve the information available. The results of this review are expected shortly.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are recorded on the Quality and Outcomes Framework registers kept by general practitioners as having dementia; and what estimate he has made of the number of carers of those patients who have been reviewed by a general practitioner within 15 months of the diagnosis of the person for whom they act as carer. [319967]

Phil Hope: In 2008-09 there were 232,430 people with a diagnosis of dementia, recorded on practice disease registers in England under the national Quality and Outcomes Framework scheme.

No data are held on the number of carers of people with a diagnosis of dementia. However, guidance issued to support the Quality and Outcomes Framework makes clear that practices in reviewing the needs of people diagnosed with dementia should focus on support needs of both the patient and their carer.

In 2008-09 there were 169,438 people diagnosed with dementia whose care had been reviewed in the previous 15 months and for whom practices received a reward payment under the national Quality and Outcomes Framework.

Departmental Data Protection

Christine Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to revise his Department's Caldicott Guardian Manual 2006 on data sharing. [319895]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department's Caldicott Guardian Manual has recently been revised in collaboration with the UK Council of Caldicott Guardians. The revised manual will be published shortly.

Health Services

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the designation of specialist providers as recommended in the Carter Report of 2006 to have been completed. [319478]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There has been a lot of progress in specialised commissioning since the publication of Sir David Carter's Review of Specialised Commissioning Arrangements for Specialised Services in 2006. Specialised Commissioning Groups (SCGs) are working towards designating providers of specialised services.

To date, national designation standards have been agreed for five specialised services. The National Specialised Commissioning Group is due to consider a plan for the development of further designation standards at its meeting on 3 March 2010. This plan will make recommendations about which sets of designation material are a priority for development. It will remain for individual SCGs to decide which services they choose to designate locally, a decision based on local priorities and discussion with their constituent primary care trusts.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards implementation of the 2008-09 Operating Framework which required Specialised Commissioning Groups to create pooled budgets for commissioning specialised services. [319479]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Some Specialised Commissioning Groups (SCGs) operate a system of pooled budgets for some services. Others, while not formally contributing to a shared budget, are working towards the principle of risk-sharing.

The SCG Finance Network which includes representatives from each of the 10 SCGs have a work stream on pooled budgets. They are currently mapping the position in each SCG.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place to assure the performance of *(a)* specialised commissioning groups and *(b)* the national commissioning group under the World Class Commissioning programme. [319480]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In 2009, a system for examining the skills and capabilities of specialised commissioners was developed, closely based on the primary care trust commissioning assurance process. This has been made available on a voluntary basis to strategic health authorities for them to assess specialised commissioning groups. The national specialised commissioning team is based within NHS London and could be assessed using the same system with some adaptations. The national specialised commissioning group is an advisory group reporting to Ministers on the commissioning of specialised services and the assurance process would not be suitable to assess its performance.

Strategic health authorities also assure the performance of specialised commissioning groups on an ongoing basis as part of their management of the local national health service.

Health Services: Crown Dependencies

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish his Department's review of the discontinuance of reciprocal health arrangements with the Crown Dependencies. [318221]

Gillian Merron: The review of the ending of the reciprocal healthcare agreement with the Isle of Man will take place in the autumn, around six months after the ending of the agreement. We will publish the findings as soon as we are able following completion of that review.

Health Services: Equality

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the members are of the Cross-Government Health Inequalities Programme Board. [320067]

Gillian Merron: The Cross-Government Health Inequalities Programme Board is a director-general level board. Its remit is to oversee the development of a cross-government health inequalities strategy post-2010 following the report of the Marmot review (the Post-2010 Strategic Review of Health Inequalities).

Its members are:

Una O'Brien (Chair)—Department of Health

Helen Bailey—HM Treasury

Tom Jeffery—Department for Children, Schools and Families

Irene Lucas—Communities and Local Government

Sue Owen—Department of Works and Pensions

Mike Anderson—Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Stephen Rimmer—Home Office

Stephen Marston—Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Helen Edwards—Ministry of Justice

Chris Wormald—Cabinet Office

Andrew Ramsay—Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Steve Gooding—Department for Transport

Lionel Jarvis—Ministry of Defence

Jonathan Rees—Government Equalities Office

The following observers attend from the devolved administrations:-

Harry Burns—Chief Medical Officer, Scottish Government

Chris Tudor-Smith—Head of Public Health Improvement Division, Welsh Assembly Government

Andrew Elliott—Director, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland

A Secretariat to the Board is provided by the Department of Health.

Health Services: Isle of Man

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State fo Health whether subordinate legislation is required to give effect to the decision of the UK Government to end the reciprocal health agreement between the UK and the Isle of Man with effect from 1 April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [320155

Gillian Merron: No subordinate legislation is required to give effect to the decision to end the reciproca healthcare agreement between the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man. The UK Government agreed a one year notice period with the Isle of Man Government to end the agreement, double the six months notice period contained within the agreement.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will negotiate an agreement with the Isle of Man Government to ensure that elderly persons and chronically sick and disabled persons who wish to make visits between the UK and the Isle of Man will continue to be eligible for free emergency hospital admission and treatment in either jurisdiction, providing that they are unable to obtain travel and health insurance at a reasonable cost due to their medical condition. [320188]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government have committed to working with the Isle of Man Government to carry out a review of the ending of the reciprocal healthcare agreement with the Isle of Man. The review will take place around six months after the agreement ends and will address any unforeseen consequences, including access to insurance. Accident and emergency treatment will continue to be free.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to paragraph seven of the Minister of State's letter of 22 January 2010 to the co-chair of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly on the UK's decision to terminate reciprocal health arrangements with the Isle of Man with effect from 1 April 2010, under what arrangements free emergency hospital admission and treatment will continue to be afforded to visitors to the Isle of Man who are visitors to the UK from a country which has a bilateral healthcare agreement with the UK; and if he will make a statement; [320189]

(2) with reference to paragraphs six and seven of the Minister of State's letter of 22 January 2010 to the co-chair of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly, under what agreement or authority *(a)* all UK pensioners visiting the Isle of Man who have lawfully lived in the UK for 10 continuous years will receive free emergency hospital treatment and admission and *(b)* there will be no variation in such provision following the termination of the reciprocal health arrangement; and if he will make a statement. [320190]

Gillian Merron: Free emergency hospital treatment will continue to be afforded to visitors to the United Kingdom from a country with which the UK has a reciprocal healthcare agreement. This provision does not extend to those visiting the Isle of Man, given that is not part of the UK.

The exemption from national health service charges for UK pensioners who have previously lived in the UK for 10 continuous years, under the national heath service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, applies only to UK pensioners visiting the UK. It does not apply to UK pensioners visiting destinations outside of the UK, including the Isle of Man.

Hospitals: Admissions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people of each age were admitted to hospital for injuries sustained as a result of an assault by *(a)* a sharp object and *(b)* a blunt object on school premises in each year since 1997; [317671]

(2) how many people of each age were admitted to hospital for injuries sustained as a result of an assault by bodily force on school premises in each year since 1997; [317669]

(3) how many people of each age were admitted to hospital for injuries sustained as a result of an assault of having been hit, struck, kicked, twisted or scratched by another person on school premises in each year since 1997; [317674]

(4) how many people of each age were admitted to hospital for injuries sustained as a result of an assault involving *(a)* a knife, *(b)* a sword and *(c)* a dagger on school premises in each year since 1997; [317677]

(5) how many people of each age were admitted to hospital for injuries sustained as a result of gunshot wounds caused by *(a)* a rifle, *(b)* a shotgun and *(c)* a larger firearm on school premises in each year since 1997; [317682]

(6) how many people of each age were admitted to hospital for injuries sustained as a result of an attack by a dog on school premises in each year since 1997; [317678]

(7) how many people of each age were admitted to hospital for injuries sustained as a result of gunshot wounds caused by a handgun on school premises in each year since 1997; [317680]

(8) how many people of each age have been admitted to hospital for injuries sustained by assault by *(a)* hanging, *(b)* strangulation and *(c)* suffocation on school premises in each year since 1997. [317683]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: I have been asked to reply.

Information on assaults which take place on school premises and result in hospital admission is not collected centrally.

NHS: Finance

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether efficiency savings targets will be set for each strategic health authority for the purposes of making savings of between £15 and £20 billion between 2011 and 2014. [320122]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There are no plans to set targets for individual strategic health authorities for this purpose.

Scarborough and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust: Translation Services

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on translation staff and services by Scarborough and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust in each of the last three years. [319706]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally. However, it should be available directly from the Scarborough and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust.

Supranuclear Palsy

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department *(a)* has commissioned, *(b)* plans to commission and *(c)* has evaluated (i) UK-based and (ii) international research into causes of progressive supranuclear palsy; and if he will make a statement. [319760]

Gillian Merron: The Department's policy research programme is funding a £2 million long-term neurological conditions research initiative. The initiative is investigating the care needs and experiences of those living with neurological conditions. It includes a study focusing on the needs of people suffering from progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP).

The Medical Research Council is similarly funding a number of projects specifically concerned with PSP; and supports a broad portfolio of research relating to neurodegenerative disorders that includes two major projects that, whilst addressing the wider topic, specifically mention they are of relevance to PSP.

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether those diagnosed with *(a)* myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) and *(b)* symptoms associated with ME have automatic access to swine influenza vaccination. [319842]

Gillian Merron: Patients with myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) or chronic fatigue syndrome are not routinely included in the clinical risk groups for vaccination for H1N1 swine influenza. These conditions are not known to increase the severity or duration of community acquired infections, such as influenza. Therefore, these conditions are not routinely regarded as causing immunosuppression, which is one of the conditions in the clinical risk categories. However, general practitioners (GPs) should take into account the risk of influenza infection exacerbating any other underlying disease that a patient may have, as well as the risk of serious illness from influenza itself. GPs should consider on an individual basis the clinical needs of their patients.

DEFENCE

Air Force: Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fixed wing aircraft were in the effective fleet in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2010. [319494]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The following table shows the combined number of fixed wing aircraft of all three services that were planned to be in service at the end of March 1997 and the number of fixed wing aircraft in actual service at the end of January 2010.

Role	*March 1997*	*January 2010*
Fast Jet (Excluding Hawk)	408	297
Tanker, Transport and Communications	111	92
ISTAR and Maritime Patrol	45	18
Training (Including Hawk)	477	404

Since 1997 Sea Harrier and Jaguar aircraft have been withdrawn from service and Tornado F3 continues to drawdown. A number of Training and ISTAR aircraft types used in 1997 have either been replaced by contractor owned fleets or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles which are not included in the answer.

Deliveries are continuing of the more capable Typhoon aircraft and an additional C17 aircraft is on order. FSTA, A400M, Nimrod MRA4 and Joint Strike Fighter are planned to enter service over the next decade.

Armed Forces: Equal Opportunities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on equal opportunities in the armed forces; how his Department implements that policy; and what assessment he has made of its effectiveness. [319929]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Equality and Diversity policy for the armed forces is set out in the Ministry of Defence Unified Diversity Strategy. This policy is implemented through the Department's published Equality and Diversity Scheme.

The Equality and Diversity Scheme which includes an action plan sets out how we intend to meet our statutory general and specific Race, Disability and Gender Equality Duties. This scheme demonstrates our continued commitment to our equality and diversity agenda, making equality and diversity integral to all our policies, functions and services. We publish an Annual Report against the scheme setting out the progress being made against the targets set out in the action plan.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training exercises originally planned for 2010 have been cancelled; and what the reasons are for each cancellation. [312661]

Bill Rammell: Success in Afghanistan is our main effort, and will remain our principal commitment for as long as it takes. Our approach at this time must be—and is—Afghanistan first. All exercises that better prepare our forces for operations in Afghanistan will continue but those exercises that are considered not to directly support our effort have been examined critically and, where appropriate, cancelled.

The following table advises those exercises that have been cancelled.

Exercise
Jordan Express
Malaysian Express
Steppe Eagle
Cossack Steppe
French Connection
Tricolour
Asterix
Winged Star
Glow Worm/Rattlesnake
Gobi Dust
African Thorn
Oman Express
Bald Eagle
Chartered Flight
Citadel
Crown Eagle
Destier/Aurige
Devils Hat
Devils Horizon
First Eagle
First Rock
Guibert
Horizon
Kleiber
Gaulish
Longboat Warrior
Larksong Foxtrot
Marble Tor
Medoc
Modulex
Pathfinder
Pony Express
Ponte Vecchio/Tower Bridge
Readiness Challenge
Silver Eagle
Steam Drive
Top Kitten
Tunuk Warrior
Wet Gap
Work Sheet
Roman Eagle
Turtle Truss
Lion Sun 1
Lion Sun 2
Lion Star 1
Lion Star 2
Iron Ram/Ferro Ariete
Bass Rock
Anatolian Eagle 10
Green flag West 10-9
Torpedo Focus 10-3
Pitch Black
Bold Avenger 10

Exercise Blue Flag was cancelled by the host nation.

Exercise Rimpac 10 was cancelled due to the unavailability of an airframe which has been diverted to support operations.

Armed Forces: Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* logistics and *(b)* engineering vehicles of each type were (a) in service and (b) available for operations on the latest date for which figures are available. [319488]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I am withholding the information on the numbers of vehicles available on operations for operational security reasons.

The Department holds a huge variety of logistics and engineering vehicles. For ease these have been grouped by role and category. The overall number of vehicles in service within each category are shown in the following table:

Role	*Total number in service*
Engineering	
Armoured Engineering	66
Bridging	177
Bulldozer	53
Dumper Truck	265
Excavator	487
Forklift	20
Route Engineer Plant	109
Beach T/WAY Dispenser	2
Logistics	
Bulk Fuel	1,499
Cargo	12,427
Container Handler	31
Crane	119
Equipment Transporter	794
Forklift	785
Medical	906
Recovery	388
Bulk Water	79
Airfield Support	472
Fire Vehicles	141

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many thefts from his Department have been recorded in the last two years. [318984]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The requested information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Haiti: Earthquakes

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assets his Department has deployed to Haiti since the earthquake on 12 January 2010; [319431]

(2) how many of his Department's *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian personnel have been deployed to Haiti since the earthquake on 12 January 2010; [319432]

(3) how much his Department has spent on relief and deployments to Haiti since the earthquake on 12 January 2010. [319433]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* The Department for International Development (DfID) is leading the UK response to the Haitian earthquake: at DfID's request the Ministry of Defence (MOD) sent a Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) ship, RFA Largs Bay, to carry vital relief supplies to Haiti. RFA Largs Bay arrived in Haiti on 18 February, delivered its cargo of aid and is now engaged in further taskings in support of the World Food programme under the direction of DfID. This has been a high priority task and I trust it has been seen as a significant contribution by the Government to the international aid effort.

The MOD deployed an Operational Liaison and Reconnaissance Team to Haiti via 2 C-130 Hercules flights to advise DfID on the capabilities of RFA Largs Bay and on what military assistance was required. DfID does not currently require any military assistance in the region beyond that already in Haiti. The MOD continues to take an active role in the UK response, and will provide further assistance where possible if required.

Some 130 military personnel are on board the RFA Largs Bay. Five military personnel remain in Port-au-Prince in support of the ship. Eight members of a Royal Military Police close protection team for the FCO's consular Rapid Deployment Team as well as 11 military personnel and one civilian from the Operational Liaison and Reconnaissance Team were deployed initially to Haiti following the earthquake but have all since returned to the UK. A small number of UK service personnel on exchanges (with Canada, Bermuda and USA military forces) were also deployed, or were on standby to deploy, to Haiti.

Spending by the MOD in support of Operation PANLAKE, the assistance provided by MOD to Haiti on behalf of DfID, will be recovered from DfID. At present, it is not possible to provide a final costing of the operation as the work is still being completed.

Harassment

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many incidents of harassment have been reported by *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian personnel in (i) each of the armed forces and (ii) his Department in each of the last 10 years. [319927]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table reflects the number of harassment complaints reported since October 2006 for each service. Some Tri-Service defence organisations do not record the service to which the complainant belongs.

Statistical data prior to October 2006 are not held centrally.

Formal harassment complaints	*Royal Navy*	*Army*	*RAF*	*Tri-Service Organisations*
October 2006 to March 2007	10	52	15	0
April 2007 to September 2007	21	17	21	0
October 2007 to March 2008	15	39	21	0
April 2008 to September 2008	29	20	27	7

Formal harassment complaints	*Royal Navy*	*Army*	*RAF*	*Tri-Service Organisations*
October 2008 to March 2009	17	34	30	5
April 2009 to December 2009	26	67	27	0

Statistics for Tri-Service Organisations have only been collected since April 2008. Armed forces personnel statistics may also include cases raised by MOD civilians against a service person.

The following table shows the number of formal complaints of bullying or harassment raised by MOD Civilians through the Department's Harassment and Bullying complaints procedure where investigation by a Harassment Investigation Officer has been requested.

Formal bullying and harassment complaints (financial year)	*MOD civil service*
1999-2000	19
2000-01	16
2001-02	13
2002-03	13
2003-04	27
2004-05	20
2005-06	36
2006-07	55
2007-08	66
2008-09	82
2009-10 (to date)	60

Due to the way information is recorded for civilian bullying and harassment complaints, it is not possible to separate the two types of complaint except at disproportionate cost.

HMS Sheffield

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 351W, on HMS Sheffield, if he will lay before the House the findings of the comprehensive review of the Board of Inquiry report on the sinking of HMS Sheffield; [315473]

(2) when he plans to answer question 315473, on the comprehensive review of the Board of Inquiry report on the sinking of HMS Sheffield, tabled on 1 February 2010. [320115]

Bill Rammell: The review of the Board of Inquiry (BOI) report into the sinking of HMS Sheffield was concerned with the provision of considered advice to the then Minister of State for the Armed Forces on which documents from the BOI report should be published.

The findings of the review were never presented in a report; but led to the publication of the BOI report and associated papers, as announced on 2 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 23WS.

International Military Services Limited: Iran

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the legal and contractual issues between International Military Services Ltd (IMS) and the republic of Iran have been resolved; what the outcome was; and whether IMS will now be wound up. [320129]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: International Military Services Ltd (IMS Ltd) is a private limited company, albeit one owned by the Secretary of State for Defence. The company is under the direct control and management of a board of directors who are responsible for the conduct of its affairs. Questions on the legal and contractual issues between IMS Ltd and the republic of Iran are routinely for the company to address.

However, I asked my officials to consult the managing director of IMS about this case. His advice is that discussions between the two parties continue, and are leading to resolution of all of the outstanding issues.

I will update this House when these matters are fully resolved, and it is my intention at that time to wind up IMS Ltd.

Military Bases: Carbon Emissions

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for [illegible] what estimate he has made of the level of [illegible] dioxide emissions from his Department's military establishments *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* abroad in each year since 2005. [319768]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence's (MOD's) carbon emissions from its military establishments in the UK and abroad since 2005 are provided in the following table:

			Tonnes CO_2
	UK estate	*Overseas estate*	*Total carbon emissions*
2005-06	1,668,527	211,673	1,880,200
2006-07	1,642,121	192,479	1,834,600
2007-08	1,519,725	376,175	1,895,900
2008-09	1,541,984	306,716	1,848,700

The increase in carbon emissions during 2007-08 and 2008-09 is because figures for the overseas estate from Gibraltar, Cyprus, Falkland Islands, Northwood in the UK and the Army overseas estate are taken into account. In previous years these figures were not included.

The Department's headline energy figures are now published within the MOD's Defence Statistics, included for the first time in 2009. They are also published yearly in MOD's Sustainable Development Report and separately by the Sustainable Development Commission as part of their role as the Government's Sustainable Development watchdog.

Navy: Deployment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many days each Royal Navy frigate spent on non-operational deployment for *(a)* diplomatic engagements and *(b)* defence industry exhibitions in each of the last five years. [319943]

Bill Rammell: The Royal Navy does not deploy with the sole aim of diplomatic engagements or defence industry exhibitions; this is done on an opportunity basis. These types of engagements are undertaken when a vessel is located in, or passing through the region. Details of these engagements for the past five years are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nuclear Weapons

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey) of 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 453W, on nuclear weapons, whether any funding for the work of his Department's Warhead Pre-Concept Working Group is included in the funding allocation for the Nuclear Warhead Capability Sustainment Programme; what the cost was of work undertaken by the Warhead Pre-Concept Working Group in 2008-09 and 2009-10; and what estimate he has made of the projected cost of work scheduled to be carried out by the Working Group in the next three years. [319190]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The work previously co-ordinated by the Warhead Pre-Concept Working Group now forms part of studies being undertaken by Atomic Weapon Establishment under the Nuclear Warhead Capability Sustainment Programme. This is required to inform decisions, likely to be necessary in the next Parliament, on whether and how we may need to refurbish or replace our current warhead. Expenditure amounted to some £7.3 million in 2008-09 and is forecast to be some £16.5 million in 2009-10. Comparable levels of future annual expenditure are anticipated until final decisions are taken.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any stocks of defence special nuclear materials are held at locations other than sites owned by his Department. [319194]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Some special nuclear material is held at sites that are not owned by the Ministry of Defence. I am withholding further information on the location of this material as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice national security and defence in the UK.

Somalia: EU Action

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many RAF *(a)* C-17 Globemaster, *(b)* C-130K Hercules, *(c)* C-130J Hercules, *(d)* Tristar and *(e)* VC-10 aircraft will be used for the EU Training Mission for Somalia; [319512]

(2) what recent reports he has received on the *(a)* military and *(b)* financial contribution of each EU member state planning to participate in the EU Training Mission for Somalia; [319513]

(3) how many British service personnel of each rank in each unit in each service he expects to participate in the EU Training Mission for Somalia; [319514]

(4) what NATO assets he expects to be used for the EU Training Mission for Somalia under the *(a)* 2003 Berlin Plus arrangements and *(b)* 2002 NATO-EU Declaration on the European Security and Defence Policy; [319515]

(5) how much and what proportion of the funding of the EU Training Mission for Somalia his Department plans to contribute; and how much of that funding had been disbursed on 10 February 2010. [319516]

Bill Rammell: The European Union is currently undertaking detailed planning for the proposed EU Training Mission (EUTM) to Somalia and we are discussing appropriate force levels and financial contributions with our European partners. We are currently assessing possible UK contributions. We do not anticipate any UK military aircraft being used in EUTM Somalia nor do we anticipate that the mission will use any wholly owned NATO assets.

The current anticipated costs to the UK, should the mission proceed, are around €0.7million (£0.636 million). This represents our proportion of common costs currently assessed at around 14 per cent. Of this €0.4 million (£0.364 million) had been disbursed by 10 February 2010.

Territorial Army: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of Territorial Army personnel were available to be deployed on operations on the latest date for which figures are available. [319490]

Bill Rammell: As of 1 December 2009 the strength of the Territorial Army, including University Officer Training Corps cadets, was 34,520. Of the total strength approximately 1,300 are currently mobilised in support of operations. Approximately a further 19,000 are available for mobilisation, subject to their being released from their civilian commitments and completing additional pre-deployment training. This represents around 55 per cent. of total Territorial Army strength. Available for mobilisation is defined as those who have completed phase 2 training and are not bound by limitations of the Reserve Forces Act 1996.

Type 45 Destroyers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent discussions has he had on the weapons systems on the new Type 45 destroyers; [319708]

(2) what reports he received on the recent test firing of the Type 45 missile systems; and if he will make a statement. [319726]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Secretary of State for Defence has not personally been involved in discussions relating to Sea Viper. However, I have been briefed by industry, partner nations and officials on a number of occasions, both on the recent test firing of the Sea Viper missile system and, more generally, on the weapons systems on the new Type 45 destroyers.

OLYMPICS

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much the Government Olympic Executive paid to the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each year since its inception; how much it has spent on such payments in 2009-10; and what proportion of such payments was made in respect of the Government Car Service. [319900]

Tessa Jowell: Since the creation of my post in June 2007, my private office has formed part of the Cabinet Office. The amount paid to the Government Car and Despatch Agency is shown in the following table:

	Expenditure (£)
2007-08	41,116.93
2008-09	122,226.83

Figures for 2009-10 are not available until the end of the reporting year. All of this expenditure was paid to the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Olympic Games 2012: Plants

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what proportion of plants for landscaping of the Olympics site she expects to come from UK growers. [319200]

Tessa Jowell: Overall, the Olympic Delivery Authority estimate that approximately 90 per cent. of plants for landscaping of the Olympic Park will have come from UK suppliers.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Bankruptcy: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many bankruptcies of *(a)* individuals in each age group resident and *(b)* businesses based in Leeds, North-West constituency there have been in each year since 2005. [319499]

Ian Lucas: Figures for bankrupts in Leeds, North-West constituency by age group since 2005 are shown in Table 1 as follows:

Table 1. Bankruptcies in Leeds Northwest constituency[1]

	Age group[2]						
	Unknown	*Under 25*	*25-34*	*35-44*	*45-54*	*55-64*	*65+*
2005	6	5	18	9	6	9	2
2006	3	5	15	30	7	10	3
2007	4	1	13	26	19	7	3
2008	12	3	18	25	17	15	5

[1] Where bankrupt has provided a valid postcode (from 95.3 per cent. in 2005 to 96.9 per cent. in 2008)

[2] Where bankrupt has provided a valid date of birth (from 92.1 per cent. in 2005 to 93.4 per cent. in 2008)

Self-employed traders may be declared bankrupt (or enter into an individual voluntary arrangement [IVA]), but, registered companies are the subject of "liquidation" (compulsory liquidation or creditors voluntary liquidation [CVL]).

Table 2 shows the number of self-employed traders who were declared bankrupt since 2005.

Table 2: Bankruptcies among sole traders in Leeds Northwest constituency[1]

Year[2]	*Leeds North West constituency*
2005	13
2006	14
2007	9
2008	14

[1] Where bankrupt has provided a valid postcode (from 95.3 per cent. in 2005 to 96.9 per cent. in 2008).

[2] Figures from October 2006 are compiled on a different basis and are not comparable to earlier figures

Regional figures for 2009 are not currently availal for bankruptcies, as they are compiled on an annu basis. They will be available later in 2010.

Official statistics covering corporate insolvenci including liquidation, are not currently available at sub-national level within England and Wales.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Angus Robertson: To ask the Minister of Sta Department for Business, Innovation and Skills wh estimate he has made of the level of carbon emissio from his Department's buildings in each year sin 2005. [3197

Mr. McFadden: This Department is required to repo performance data on carbon emissions annually as pa of the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiC reporting process.

The latest assessment of Government's performanc against targets was published by the Office of Governmen Commerce (OGC) on 18 December 2009, and is availab on the OGC website:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/sustainability_programme_progress.asp

Information on reporting years prior to 2008/09 wa collated and published by the Sustainable Developmen Commission (SDC) and can be found on the SD website:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk

Further Education: Finance

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Departmen for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is o the use by colleges of *(a)* ring-fenced and *(b)* genera funding provided by his Department to respond t local and regional priorities; and if he will make statement. [319160

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC)— and from 1 April the Skills Funding Agency—has responsibility for the funding of post-19 further education and skills delivered through colleges and training organisations.

For 2010/11 academic year, the main funding streams available to colleges for post-19 learning are the Adult Learner Responsive and Employer Responsive budgets. Within these, Government funding is prioritised towards basic literacy and numeracy skills and full level 2 and full level 3 qualifications that provide the skills for adults to enter into and progress in employment and further learning.

It is for the LSC to agree with colleges the broad level outcomes that they expect to deliver for this funding. The actual amount paid will depend on how colleges respond to demand from learners and employers in line with local and regional priorities. Regional skills priorities will be articulated in regional priority statements by regional development agencies.

In addition to Adult Learner Responsive and Employer Responsive funding, some colleges and training organisations also receive Government funding to support a clearly defined set of outcomes. For example funding for the training element of the Young Person's Guarantee is to support 18 to 24-year-olds who have been unemployed for six months or longer to undertake specific employment focused training. The funding will therefore respond to meeting a local need.

Grimsby

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Great Grimsby constituency, the effects of his Department's policies on that constituency since 1997. [320182]

Mr. McFadden: The policies and actions of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), and its predecessors, have focused on building a competitive economy and on delivering prosperity and sustainable economic growth. The implementation of BIS policy in the Yorkshire and the Humber region has been taken forward primarily by the Regional Development Agency Yorkshire Forward and the Government office for Yorkshire and the Humber, working in partnership with the local authority and other relevant bodies. The Government and their regional and local partners have responded vigorously to the global recession, providing assistance to businesses and individuals. Statistical information at constituency level is limited. Information has therefore been provided for north-east Lincolnshire local authority area, which includes the Great Grimsby constituency. Examples of how BIS policies and actions have impacted on north-east Lincolnshire include:

Levels of skills in the working age population have increased in north-east Lincolnshire since 1999 although they remain below the regional and national averages:

Performance at NVQ Level 1 and above has increased from 67.8 per cent. to 77.9 per cent.

Performance at NVQ Level 2 and above has increased from 46.5 per cent. to 59.2 per cent.

Performance at NVQ Level 3 and above has increased from 29.0 per cent. to 31.6 per cent.

Performance at NVQ Level 4 and above has increased from 14.8 per cent. to 16.8 per cent.

The proportion of the working age population with no qualifications has decreased from 23.2 per cent. to 10.3 per cent.

Source:

Local Area Labour Force Survey (LALFS)/Annual Population Survey(APS)

The stock of VAT registered businesses in north-east Lincolnshire has increased from 3,735 businesses in 1997 to 3,820 in 2007.

Source:

BIS VAT registrations/deregistrations by industry

The proportion of business registrations (including VAT and PAYE) per 10,000 resident population aged 16 and above in north-east Lincolnshire has increased from 41.5 in 2002 to 42.5 in 2008.

Source:

BIS Enterprise Directorate Data

The percentage of small businesses showing growth in number of employees in north-east Lincolnshire has increased from 12.3 per cent. in 2003 to 14.7 per cent. in 2008.

Source:

BIS National Indicator Data

The average gross full-time weekly earnings in north-east Lincolnshire have risen from £342.30 in 2002 to £451.60 in 2009, an increase of 32 per cent.

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)

In support of its objective of promoting business efficiency, investment and competitiveness Yorkshire Forward has provided grants for businesses through the Selective Finance for Investment (SFI) scheme, which started in April 2004, and its successor the Grants for Business Investment (GBI) scheme, which started in October 2008. Yorkshire Forward has made 24 SFI and GBI grant offers to businesses in north-east Lincolnshire totalling £7.7 million, creating or safeguarding 1,663 jobs. Yorkshire Forward has also provided grants to support research and development by small and medium-sized businesses, through the SMART scheme and its successor, the Grants for Research and Development scheme. Since 2000, Yorkshire Forward has offered five research and development grants totalling £164.852 million to small and medium-sized businesses in north-east Lincolnshire.

Since 2008, Business Link Yorkshire has been the single contact point for all publicly funded support available to businesses in Yorkshire and the Humber. This has made it easier for businesses to access information, advice and support on issues including business regulation, best practice, marketing, innovation, financial support and help with exporting. For example in 2009/10 to date, Business Link Yorkshire has helped 1,260 businesses in the north-east Lincolnshire area and 256 individuals thinking of starting a business. As part of the Government's Real Help Now package we are providing more help for businesses to survive during the current economic conditions. Since October 2008 this has included a free Business Link health check which can be a useful starting point for identifying further business support tailored to the needs of individual companies. To date Business Link Yorkshire has arranged 373 health checks for small and medium-sized businesses in north-east Lincolnshire. In addition, the Yorkshire Forward funded Financial Health Check, which offers a grant of £2,000 for accountants to carry out a full review, has benefited 35 businesses in north-east Lincolnshire.

BIS also supports the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) programme, which was announced by the Chancellor in 2005 to promote enterprise in the country's more deprived areas boosting local incomes and employment opportunities, and building sustainable communities. North-east Lincolnshire was awarded £18.7 million for its LEGI programme ("e-factor") in December 2006. Since the programme began, e-factor has, with LEGI funding:

helped over 450 business start-ups
given assistance to over 400 businesses
created over 450 new jobs
helped over 250 people off benefits
had 30 businesses register for VAT.

For further information on Great Grimsby, the Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/

Leave: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the number of residents of Leeds North West constituency who qualify for paid leave entitlements. [319504]

Mr. McFadden: All workers resident in Leeds North West constituency qualify for paid annual leave entitlements. The statutory minimum as set out in the working time regulations is at least 5.6 weeks.

Numbers of workers resident in Leeds North West constituency are not available. However, according to the Annual Business Inquiry Employee Analysis by the Office for National Statistics, there were a total of 30,500 employees who worked in Leeds North West constituency (but did not necessarily live there) in 2008, who would all qualify for paid annual leave entitlement.

Local Government: Statistics

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what datasets not included within the national indicator set local authorities are required to submit to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Better Regulation Executive. [319657]

Ian Lucas: This Department, of which the Better Regulation Executive is part, does not require local authorities to submit any additional data other than that required for the national indicator set.

Maternity Leave: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of women resident in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point who have taken 26 weeks maternity leave since 1997. [318106]

Mr. McFadden: From April 2007 all employed mothers are entitled to 52 weeks maternity leave, of which 39 may be paid. Employers are not required to record or report the uptake of maternity leave to the Government.

The most recent estimates of take-up of maternity leave are based on the DWP "Maternity Rights and Mothers' employment decisions in Britain: Survey of Mothers" (2007). In 2006, when the mothers included in the study went on maternity leave, the statutory entitlement to Ordinary Maternity Leave (OML) was 26 weeks, while mothers who had worked for their employer for a qualifying period of 26 weeks were also entitled to Additional Maternity Leave (AML) of 26 weeks. The Office for National Statistics estimate there were 15,370 live births in Essex in 2006.

For mothers taking maternity leave in 2006:

84 per cent. took 26 weeks or more maternity leave;

35 per cent. took exactly 26 weeks maternity leave;

46 per cent. of mothers took between 27 and 52 weeks and 3 per cent. were off for more than 52 weeks;

16 per cent. of mothers took less than the statutory minimum entitlement (i.e. 26 weeks in 2006).

The next "Maternity Rights" survey will be based on mothers who took maternity leave starting in summer 2008. It is due to report later in 2010. The "Maternity Rights" survey sample is not large enough to produce robust estimates at constituency or county levels.

Science

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to the public purse of the Science: [So what? So everything] programme has been in each year since its launch; how many officials in each pay band are responsible for that programme; and what mechanisms are in place to measure the effectiveness of that programme. [318921]

Mr. Lammy: The Science: [So what? So everything] campaign was launched on 28 January 2009. Costs in each year are as follows:

2008-09: £601,200 ex VAT (covers period from start of campaign 28 January 2009 to end of FY)

2009-10: £1,261,000 ex VAT (includes actual and projected costs for this FY)

The fraction of any individual official's time dedicated to the campaign varies between less than 10 per cent. to upwards of 80 per cent. The campaign is overseen by a senior civil service manager as part of the Department's Science and Society programme.

The following officials are responsible for the management of the campaign:

2 x Grade 6

1 x Grade 7

1 x Senior Information Officer

1 x Information Officer

The Science: [So what] campaign is one aspect of a wider initiative to promote public engagement in science which includes support for activities like National Science and Engineering Week and the work of outside individuals and organisations who are helping to take forward the BIS Science and Society strategy. The campaign plays a part in contributing to the success of this broad-based activity. Its aim is to focus on putting science in places that it would not typically be associated with, such as consumer and tabloid media and thereby demonstrating to the public how important science is to their everyday lives

To evaluate the effectiveness of the Science: [So what] campaign, BIS uses a range of measures, including visits to the campaign website, the extent that media coverage has reached the campaign's core audience and its return on investment for media coverage. An Ipsos-MORI survey is also being conducted with a representative sample of 2,000 people from the C2DE (lower income) core audience, in order to gauge their recognition of the campaign, its messages and the media channels used.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on creating the Science: [So what? So everything] website; what estimate he has made of the annual cost of maintaining that website; how many unique visitors that website *(a)* has received since its launch and *(b)* receives on average each day; and how many officials in each pay band are responsible for maintaining that website. [318922]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has spent the following on creating and maintaining the Science: [So what? So everything] website:

2008-09: £56,440 (development costs for the landing site before campaign launch 28 January 2010)

2009-10: £235,161

Between its launch on 28 January 2009 and 24 February 2010, the site has received:

121,589 unique visitors

an average of 320 unique visits per day

359,737 page views over the same period.

The fraction of any individual official's time dedicated to the campaign varies between less than 10 per cent. to upwards of 80 per cent. The campaign is overseen by a senior civil service manager as part of the Department's Science and Society programme. The following officials are involved in the management of the contract for maintaining the site, with delivery contracted to an agency:

1 x Grade 6

1 x Information Officer

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people in each age group who have attended events supported by his Department's Science: [So what? So everything] programme. [318923]

Mr. Lammy: The Science: [So what? So everything] campaign has supported and organised a wide range of events which have attracted significant presence from people of all ages.

Science: Finance

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what programmes and initiatives received funding from the other minor science programmes budget referred to in Table 11 of his Department's Departmental Report for 2009; and how much such funding was allocated to each such programme and initiative in the latest year for which figures are available. [318919]

Mr. Lammy: The "Other minor science programmes" line in Table 11 of the Departmental Report covers a number of smaller programmes as detailed below. The figures for 2009-10 are:

	£ million
Public Sector Research Establishments Fund	12.5
Science and Society activities	15.4
Government Office for Science	2.9
Contribution to the funding of the FCO Science and Innovation Network	2.9
Research Base Initiatives	0.4
Provision for additional allocations to NERC and STFC to cover the increased costs of international subscriptions resulting from exchange rate movements	30.0
Loan Repayment	43.0

The loan repayment relates to an intra-Departmental loan from Departmental non-science budgets that was made in 2007-08.

Students: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1095W, on students: disabled, what functions Postcomm performs in relation to the delivery of financial support for disabled students; and when he expects the Chief Executive of Postcomm to write with a substantive reply. [319071]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 26 February 2010]:* I regret that due to an administrative error the Department's Parliamentary Unit issued the wrong answer to the hon. Member's question tabled on 10 December 2009 (307712). I apologise to the hon. Member. The answer should have been:

The Government have made available £45 million in the academic year 2009/10 through the Access to Learning Fund to provide financial support for students who need extra help to access or remain in higher education. The fund is administered by the universities and colleges which make their own decisions on how best to use their ALF allocation, including whether or not to make short-term loans (for whatever reason). Information on the uses to which the universities and colleges are putting their 2009/10 allocation is not available.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Business and Community Safety Forum and Practitioners' Forum

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library copies of the minutes of meetings of the *(a)* Business and Community Safety Forum and *(b)* Practitioners' Forum held in the last 18 months. [319285]

Mr. Malik: Minutes of the Business and Community Safety Forum meetings held in the last 18 months will be placed in the Library of the House. Minutes of the Practitioners' Forum are produced by the Chief Fire Officers' Association which provides its secretariat and are available at:

http://www.pforum.fire.gov.uk/111

Community Infrastructure Levy

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements there will be on local planning authorities to update charging schedules under the Community Infrastructure Levy scheme. [319135]

Mr. Ian Austin: There will be no formal requirements for authorities to revise their charging schedules. Part 3 of the draft CIL regulations covers charging schedules. The Government's position on revising charging schedules is set out in paragraphs 3.134 and 3.135 of the CIL consultation document of July 2009, available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/communitylevyconsultation.pdf

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps are being taken to prevent developers from being charged under both the Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy schemes. [319136]

Mr. Ian Austin: Regulations for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) were laid before Parliament on 10 February 2010. If approved by Parliament, the CIL regulations will scale back planning obligations to prevent charging for the same infrastructure items through both CIL and planning obligations. Bodies operating a CIL will be required by Regulation 123 to set out what infrastructure they intend to fund through CIL and will be prevented from seeking planning obligation contributions towards those same items.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what conditions will apply to expenditure by local planning authorities receipts from Community Infrastructure Levy which they receive from developers. [319137]

Mr. Ian Austin: Sections 205 (2) and 216 (2) of the Planning Act 2008 ringfence CIL receipts for spending on infrastructure items that support the development of an area, subject to CIL Regulation 63, which prevents CIL from being used to fund affordable housing and Regulation 61, which allows authorities to use a percentage of CIL receipts to finance the administrative costs of CIL.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance is being given to local planning authorities on the use of Grampian conditions alongside the Community Infrastructure Levy to ensure development does not proceed until infrastructure has been delivered. [319139]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government's policy on the use of planning conditions is set out in Circular 11/95. The Government launched a consultation on a new policy document on conditions on 21 December 2009, which will form an annex to the new Development Management Policy Statement, on which a consultation was launched on the same date.

East of England Waste Prevention Network

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* regional efficiency improvement partnerships have given to the East of England Waste Prevention Network since its inception. [319220]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not provided funding directly to the East of England Waste Prevention Network, nor has it any plans to do so in the future.

Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships (RIEPs) report to the Department on the basis of outcomes achieved and objectives delivered; they are not required to report in detail about to whom they have given money. However, we understand that RIEPs have not provided any funding to the East of England Waste Prevention Network.

Fire Prevention: Hotels

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the chief fire officer has provided to fire authorities on consistency in the application of fire safety assessments to hotels and bed and breakfast accommodation. [319218]

Mr. Malik: We have not provided guidance to fire and rescue authorities on consistency of enforcement in any premises covered by the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (FSO).

It is for individual FRAs to determine their own audit and enforcement priorities under the FSO, based on their assessment of risk within their communities.

The National Framework 2008-11 makes it clear that we expect fire and rescue authorities to be mindful of the need to take an open and proportionate approach to their audit and enforcement functions in accordance with the principles of good enforcement set out in the Enforcement Concordat and the Regulators' Compliance Code, to which FRAs are required to have regard.

The Department worked in partnership with representatives of small accommodation providers and the Chief Fire Officers Association to develop information for small accommodation providers on the compliance requirements of the FSO. "Do you have paying guests?" was published in November 2008 and provides practical information for the owners of these type of businesses and the fire and rescue services on what is likely to represent proportionate fire safety measures in these types of premises.

Fire Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on *(a)* empty property business rates, *(b)* utilities, *(c)* rent and other accommodation costs and *(d)* security on each regional fire control room; and for how many months each has been empty. [319115]

Mr. Malik: I refer my hon. Friend to the answers I gave on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 915W.

Utilities (up to end January)

	£
North East	278,939
East Midlands	278,446
South West	161,170
West Midlands	254,603
South East	192,867
North West	152,083
Yorks and Humber	230,881
East of England	158,292

Rent and accommodation costs (up to end January)

	£ million
North East	3.46
East Midlands	3.78
South West	3.60
West Midlands	2.86
South East	2.68
North West	2.28
Yorks and Humber	1.67
East of England	1.66

The cost of the 24/7 security provision for the Regional Control Centres is included as part of the fixed fees of the facilities management contract, as above. The contract provides a holistic facilities management service, including security, maintenance, soft-landscaping, cleaning and support services such as courier bookings, and the staff to carry out these functions. It is not possible to provide a further breakdown of just the security costs.

None of the buildings are empty. All the RCCs have staff based there full-time and they frequently host regional, project and FRS meetings. The RCCs are also being used for developing and testing systems and providing familiarisation and training activities.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether retained firefighters are eligible to apply for positions above that of station officer. [319287]

Mr. Malik: National guidance does not preclude retained firefighters from applying for positions above that of station officer.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were rescued uninjured from fires by the fire service in each of the last three years. [319426]

Mr. Malik: The latest three years for which data are available are 2006 to 2008. These are from the superseded fire data report forms which were in place until March 2009. Under this system, the numbers of people rescued but uninjured were recorded, but for reasons of economy, entry sampling was used such that full details of incidents for only one in five of those incidents that did not involve injuries were input to central databases.

Examination of the estimates from this database have shown that fluctuations in the estimates at fire and rescue service level, which occur as a result of the entry sampling, mean that only the following approximate national figure can be derived: the number of people rescued uninjured from fires by the fire and rescue service in each year between 2006 and 2008 is in the region of 1,500 to 2,000.

Details of incidents under the new incident recording system are entered electronically at source, thus CLG's databases of incidents from April 2009 will no longer be subject to entry sampling or the resulting limitations in estimates. Data for 2009-10 are scheduled for release in August.

Fires

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of fire service call-outs were to fires which had been started deliberately in each local authority area in the last 12 months. [319778]

Mr. Malik: The latest statistics on the numbers and percentages of incidents attended by each Fire and Rescue Service which were fires that had been started deliberately are shown for each Fire Authority in the table.

Incidents attended by Fire and Rescue Services in England, 2008-09[1]

	All deliberate fires	*All fire incidents*	*Deliberate fires (as percentage of all fire incidents)*	*All incidents*[2]	*Deliberate fires (as percentage of all incidents*[2]*)*
Avon	2,847	4,629	62	13,195	22
Bedfordshire	1,430	2,518	57	6,673	22
Berkshire	1,228	2,780	44	10,420	12
Buckinghamshire	1,422	2,791	51	7,812	18
Cambridgeshire	1,736	3,232	54	9,070	19
Cheshire	3,071	5,216	59	11,451	27
Cleveland	4,593	5,172	89	11,025	42
Cornwall	574	1,864	31	5,196	11
Cumbria	1,540	2,851	54	6,623	23
Derbyshire	2,193	3,924	56	11,577	19
Devon and Somerset[3]	2,974	6,467	46	20,735	14
Dorset	885	2,552	35	8,249	11
Durham	1,654	4,424	37	8,393	20
East Sussex	1,440	3,089	47	12,075	12
Essex	2,486	5,677	44	19,378	13
Gloucestershire	817	2,037	40	6,840	12
Greater London	9,954	29,273	34	134,153	7
Greater Manchester	14,275	19,040	75	40,871	35
Hampshire	3,192	6,291	51	19,977	16
Hereford and Worcester	1,140	2,631	43	8,184	14
Hertfordshire	1,666	3,303	50	10,562	16
Humberside	3,450	5,850	59	12,842	27
Isle of Wight	173	432	40	1,449	12

Incidents attended by Fire and Rescue Services in England, 2008-09[1]

	All deliberate fires	All fire incidents	Deliberate fires (as percentage of all fire incidents)	All incidents[2]	Deliberate fires (as percentage of all incidents[2])
Isles of Scilly	0	9	0	20	0
Kent	3,652	6,384	57	19,908	18
Lancashire	6,065	8,787	69	21,157	29
Leicestershire	2,156	3,787	57	9,946	22
Lincolnshire	1,109	2,819	39	10,618	10
Merseyside	9,818	12,558	78	24,049	41
Norfolk	1,642	3,071	53	10,070	16
North Yorkshire	1,074	2,521	43	8,323	13
Northamptonshire	2,207	3,448	64	8,802	25
Northumberland	897	1,722	52	4,144	22
Nottinghamshire	4,021	6,310	64	15,372	26
Oxfordshire	875	2,027	43	5,738	15
Shropshire	986	2,158	46	5,289	19
South Yorkshire	7,985	10,450	76	19,886	40
Staffordshire	3,473	5,173	67	13,838	25
Suffolk	842	2,304	37	6,974	12
Surrey	1,159	3,120	37	12,580	9
Tyne and Wear	7,076	8,877	80	20,175	35
Warwickshire	1,458	2,507	58	6,208	23
West Midlands	10,427	15,360	68	39,159	27
West Sussex	1,033	2,674	39	11,609	9
West Yorkshire	11,588	14,854	78	36,669	32
Wiltshire	892	2,118	42	7,737	12

[1] Provisional.

[2] Comprises fires incidents attended, special service incidents attended and false alarms attended

Source:

Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics Databases, CLG

Government Office for the East of England: Expenditure

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 634W, on Government Offices for the Regions: procurement, how much the Government Office for the East of England paid to *(a)* Butterfly Hotels Ltd., *(b)* Five Lakes Hotel, *(c)* Hilton Hotel and *(d)* Jolly Hotel; on what dates; for what purpose; and how many civil servants used the facilities in each case. [319130]

Ms Rosie Winterton: GO-East spent the following amounts in delivery of regional Government business:

Butterfly Hotels Ltd.: £1,070.69

30 April 2008

Two meetings were held at this venue. The European Programmes Strategy Group held its regular meeting to oversee and scrutinise the region's use of European programme funding for 2007-13. The East of England Structural Fund Strategic Group reviewed delivery of the 2000-6 European Social Fund programme. 33 people attended the two meetings, including European Commission officials, national and regional Government officials and co-financing organisations from local authorities.

Eight civil servants: three from GO-East, two from CLG, two from DWP, one from BERR (now BIS).

Five Lakes Hotel: £538.91

13 March 2009

Regional partners met to review the Coastal Initiative's priorities, and to visit Abbots Hall Farm—a site of particular importance for coastal management. The initiative is a national exemplar which brings together Government Departments, regional expertise and local authority representatives to address issues faced by the coast. The event brought together 16 regional and local authority partners.

Three civil servants.

Hilton Hotel: £3733.13

25-26 March 2009

The meeting looked at how GO-East will deliver housing and transport targets in the region, while protecting the environment and delivering carbon reduction. It looked particularly at the challenges in Hertfordshire, and involved discussions with local partners from the county council to agree how best to work together.

27 civil servants, four local authority colleagues.

Jolly Hotel: £560.87

13 February 2009

The meeting brought together Government Office Network officials from across the country to agree how we can most effectively deliver our role for the Department for Transport and for the communities we represent in each region. The event included looking at best practice examples of effective delivery in Cambridgeshire.

10 civil servants.

Government Office for the North West: Expenditure

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 634W, on Government Offices for the Regions: procurement, how much the Government Office for the North West paid to *(a)* Aintree Racecourses, *(b)* the Athenaeum, *(c)* Inn on the Lake and *(d)* Malmaison Hotel; on what dates; for what purpose; and how many civil servants used the facilities in each case. [319131]

Ms Rosie Winterton: For details of the payments made to the suppliers listed I refer the hon. Member to the response I gave in PQ 319132.

Supplier	*Event*	*Date*	*Civil servants*
Inn on the Lake	Northwest High Focus areas	31 March 2008	1
Malmaison	3rd Sector Inaugural meeting	13 June 2008	31
Athenaeum	Director and Team Leader Meeting	21 July 2008	38
Athenaeum	Director and Team Leader Meeting	13 November 2008	35
Aintree Racecourses	NW Crime stats lunch	17 July 2008	8

Government Office for the South East: Expenditure

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 634W, on Government Offices for the Regions: procurement, how much the Government Office for the South East spent on *(a)* the County Club, *(b)* Devere Venues, *(c)* Mandolay Hotel and *(d)* Angel Posting House and Livery; and (i) on what dates and (ii) for what purpose each of those venues was used. [319328]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The amounts spent on the above named venues in 2008-09 are set out in my response to PQ 319132. The purposes for using these venues are provided in the following list. GOSE premises were being refurbished between September 2008 and March 2009 which meant that a number of meetings that would normally have been held in-house were held in external locations.

County Club

A number of Regional Resilience meetings with local resilience partners, and overseas emergency planners—9 October, 21 November, 5 December all 2008 and 7 January, 18 January, and 6 March all 2009.

Government office senior management team meeting—30 September 2008

Housing and planning meeting—16 October 2008

Government office directorate restructuring planning meeting—11 November 2008

Substance misuse partnership meeting—2 December 2008

Sustainable food and farming strategy partnership meeting—19 March 2009

Government office directorate meeting—25 March 2009.

Devere Venues

Accommodation costs for GOSE staff supporting the full Cabinet Meeting in Southampton—23 February 2009

Mandolay Hotel

A partnership meeting to discuss Young Peoples Substance Misuse—25 September 2008

A seminar for the South East Analysts network to look at and consider regional crime statistics—25 September 2008

Two meetings of the regional forum for the Drug Intervention Programme—24 October 2008 and 21 January 2009

A meeting to discuss the Civil Service South East agenda—28 November

A meeting of the South East Regional (drugs) Availability Group attended by representatives of the police and partners from local authorities—16 January 2009

A business planning meeting to agree future priorities for GOSE's work on community cohesion and empowerment and on support to the third sector—12 February 2009

A Regional Resilience seminar with local emergency planners—29 April 2009

GOSE non-executive director overnight accommodation, prior to GOSE Audit Committee and Board Meetings—15 April, 17 June, 24 September, 15 October all 2008

The Angel Posting House and Livery

European Social Fund Regional Committee—26 February 2009

Government Offices for the Regions: Procurement

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 634W, on Government Offices for the Regions: procurement, how much each Government Office paid to each supplier listed in 2008-09; and what the address of each named supplier was. [319132]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information that has been requested has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Homelessness: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were recorded as sleeping rough in Coventry in 2008-09. [319468]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 2 March 2010]*: Annual rough sleeping figures have been collected since 1998. The last street count in Coventry found four rough sleepers in 2009.

We have reduced rough sleeping by 75 per cent. since 1998. Our national baseline was 1,850 in 1998 and the latest headline figure based on local authority rough sleeper counts was 464 for 2009.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing starts for housing of each type of tenure there were in the borough of Poole in the latest period for which figures are available. [320379]

Mr. Ian Austin: The number of house building starts in Poole unitary authority for each tenure for the latest available period is given in the following table.

Poole UA

		House building starts			
Financial year	*Quarter*	*Local authority*	*Registered social landlords*	*Private enterprise*	*Total*
2009/10	3	0	0	46	46

Source:

New build starts from P2 quarterly returns submitted by local authorities and the National House-Building Council to CLG

Local Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Standards Board has given to local authorities on visits by (i) hon. Members, (ii) parliamentary candidates and (iii) Cabinet Ministers to premises owned by local authorities (A) within and (B) outside election purdah periods. [319292]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Cabinet Office issues guidance to Departments on activities during general and local pre-election periods. Neither the Secretary of State nor the Standards Board issue separate guidance covering visits to premises owned by local authorities.

Local Government Services: Asylum

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations his Department has received from local authorities on funding to meet costs of supporting asylum seekers in the last 12 months. [319286]

Mr. Malik: During the course of the Department for Communities and Local Government consultation on the 2010-11 local government finance settlement two responses—form the London borough of Croydon and from the High Ethnicity Authorities Special Interest Group—raised the specific issue of pressures from asylum seekers without recourse to public funds who have exhausted the appeals process but have yet to be removed.

Local Government: Lobbying

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether guidance has been given to local authorities on retaining lobbyists and public affairs firms for the purposes of seeking to influence Government policy. [319266]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Local authorities have traditionally sought to influence Government policy through their representative bodies, principally the Local Government Association, London councils and the National Association of Local Councils, and individually through making representations to Government. This Department has issued no guidance about the retention of lobbyists or public affairs firms to assist such activities.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for judicial review of a ministerial decision have been brought in relation to his Department's plans for local government restructuring; which bodies have made the applications; and what timetables have been set for each case. [319300]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Regarding the Secretary of State's decisions of 10 February 2010 to implement unitary proposals in Exeter and Norwich, one joint judicial review has been brought by Devon and Norfolk county councils. The High Court has ordered that the case be listed for a hearing estimated at two days in the period 19 to 30 April 2010.

Nine separate challenges were brought by local authorities against the Secretary of State in relation to decisions taken in 2007 on unitary proposals concerning Bedfordshire, Cheshire, Cornwall, Durham, Exeter, Northumberland, North Yorkshire, Shropshire and Wiltshire. All these challenges have either been refused permission to apply for judicial review, withdrawn, or dismissed by the court.

Parking

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which regional spatial strategies policies on *(a)* maximum parking standards and *(b)* the setting of parking charges have been introduced. [319262]

Mr. Ian Austin: All regional spatial strategies currently in effect contain policies relating to parking standards for all types of development. Whether these standards are treated as maximums or not depends on the region. The RSS does not set out specific parking charges; this is the responsibility of local authorities.

North East—Policy 54

http://www.gos.gov.uk/gone/ourregion/strategies/?a=42496

The RSS does not define the maximum parking standards for developments: it is the local development framework which sets these standards so as to reflect local circumstances.

North West—Policy RT2

http://www.gos.gov.uk/gonw/Planning/RegionalPlanning/

The maximum parking standards cover non-residential developments only.

Yorkshire and Humber—Policy T2

http://www.yhassembly.gov.uk/News/2007/
Assembly%20welcomes%20publication%20of%20RSS%20panel%20report/

The maximum parking standards cover non-residential developments only.

East Midlands—Policy 47 and Policy 48

http://www.goem.gov.uk

The maximum parking standards cover non-residential developments only.

West Midlands—Policy T7

http://www.gowm.gov.uk

The RSS does not define the maximum parking standards for developments: it is the LDF which sets these standards so as to reflect local circumstances.

East of England—Policy T14

http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=120

The RSS defines the maximum parking standards for non-residential development as set out in PPG13 Transport; for these and for standards for residential development it is the LDF which interprets standards so as to reflect local circumstances.

South East—Policy T12

http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/plan/
view_plan.html

The RSS states that local parking standards set out in LDFs for residential and non-residential development have to be line with PPG 13 Transport.

South West—Policy RTS3

http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=836

The maximum parking standards cover non-residential developments only.

London—Policies 3C.23 and C3.24

http://www.london.gov.uk/thelondonplan/

The London Plan does define the maximum parking standards for residential and non-residential development; the boroughs should interpret these standards so as to reflect local circumstances.

Regeneration

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the National Audit Office's report on English Coalfields, HC 84, which *(a)* local authority areas and *(b)* Government Office regions the coalfields programme covers. [319117]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Homes and Communities Agency's National Coalfields Programme covers the following Government Office regions and local authorities:

Government office region	*Local authority area*
East Midlands	Ashfield
	Bassetlaw
	Bolsover
	Chesterfield
	Gedling
	Mansfield
	Melton
	Newark and Sherwood
	North East Derbyshire
	North West Leicestershire
	Rushcliffe
North East	County Durham
	Gateshead
	North Tyneside
	Northumberland
	South Tyneside
	Sunderland
North West	Copeland
	Knowsley
	Salford
	St. Helens
	Wigan
South East	Canterbury
	Dover
South West	Forest of Dean
West Midlands	Cannock Chase
	Lichfield
	Newcastle-under-Lyme
	North Warwickshire
	Staffordshire Moorlands
	Stoke-on-Trent
Yorkshire and the Humber	Barnsley
	Doncaster
	Leeds
	Rotherham
	Selby
	Sheffield
	Wakefield

A map showing the Government Office Regions and projects can be found at:

http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/coalfields.htm

Regional Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many regional assemblies have been abolished; and which assemblies have rebranded themselves. [319226]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No regional assemblies have been abolished. Pending the commencement of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act on 1 April, five regional assemblies have transferred some of their activities to newly established interim Leaders' Boards. These are (a) the Association of North East Councils; (b) Local Government Yorkshire and Humber (c) 4NW; (d) South East England Leaders' Board; and (e) South West Councils Strategic Leaders' Board.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many unauthorised Traveller pitches there were in each local authority in England in *(a)* 2000 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available. [319124]

Mr. Malik: The bi-annual count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans collects data on the number of caravans on unauthorised sites in England. It does not provide data on the number of pitches on unauthorised sites. Information on the number of caravans on unauthorised sites by local authority area in 2000 and 2009. I have arranged for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House.

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many vacant plots there are on local authority Gypsy sites. [319167]

Mr. Malik: The count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans carried out by local authorities on 16 July 2009 shows there were 250 vacant residential pitches and 76 vacant transit pitches on local authority sites in England.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's Progress Report on Gypsy and Traveller Policy of July 2009, what the evidential basis is for the analysis for Planning Inspectorate decisions referred to on page 12 of the Progress Report; if he will place in the Library a copy of the methodology and dataset for the analysis referred to on page 12 of that report; and if he will update that analysis using the latest data. [319231]

Mr. Malik: The evidential basis for the analysis of Planning Inspectorate decisions referred to on page 12 of the Progress Report on Gypsy and Traveller Policy of July 2009 is a review of all 81 appeal decisions made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009. The Annual Report to Parliament refers to 178 appeals; this is a typographical error. This does not impact on the figure of 27 per cent. of appeals relating to Gypsy and Traveller developments receiving permission. I have arranged for a copy of the dataset to be placed in the House Library.

It is our intention to provide an update to this in our 2010 report to Parliament.

Waste Improvement Network: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Regional Efficiency Improvement Partnership have given to the Waste Improvement Network in each year since its inception; and what the forecast level of funding by each is for (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [319314]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not provided funding directly to the Waste Improvement Network (WIN), nor has it any plans to do so in the future.

Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships (RIEPs) report to the Department on the basis of outcomes achieved and objectives delivered; they are not required to report in detail about to whom they have given money. However, we are aware that WIN was established by the predecessor to the South East RIEP in 2006-07 with funding of £89,700, and that forecast investment by them is as follows:

2009-10: £15,000

2010-11: £15,000.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to answer question 316350, on offices of the Homes and Communities Agency, the Homes and Communities Agency Academy and the Tenant Services Authority, tabled on 3 February 2010. [320252]

Barbara Follett: The hon. Member's question was answered on 10 February although unfortunately it was not printed in the *Official Report*. This has now been done on 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1140-41W.

Rates and Rating: Historic Buildings

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many stately homes in England were on the Valuation Office Agency's Rating List in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2010. [319222]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

For the number of properties on the list in 1997, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 232W.

For the number of property types on the list in 2010, I refer the hon. Member to the statistical release titled "Non-domestic rateable values: 2010 Local Ratings Lists - England and Wales" published on 18 December 2009. A copy of this statistical release is available at the following link:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/VOA_Statistics_Release_Final.pdf

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Syms: To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many staff the Electoral Commission has appointed who were later discovered to be illegal immigrants since 2005. [320439]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that there have been no staff appointed who were later discovered to be illegal immigrants since 2005.

Trade Unions

Mr. Syms: To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether any staff of the Electoral Commission are seconded to trade unions; how many days staff of the Electoral Commission spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available; and what recent estimate has been made of the annual cost to the public purse of such activity. [320673]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that there are no Electoral Commission staff seconded to trade unions. The Electoral Commission has internal staff representatives of the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) trade union. During 2009 these representatives requested 11 hours of paid time to attend meetings and seven paid days to attend PCS training courses relating to staff representation. The estimated cost of paid time to undertake these activities was £1,400. In addition, internal staff representatives may provide ad hoc confidential advice to their members during working time, which is not recorded.

JUSTICE

Youth Custody: Appeals

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of custodial sentences given to juveniles was appealed against in each of the last five years; and what proportion of those appeals was upheld. [319449]

Claire Ward: The information requested is not available. Data collected within the central IT systems do not currently hold sufficient detail to allow identification of the type of sentence which is the subject of each appeal against a sentence heard in the Crown court or Court of Appeal.

Annual statistics on all appeals dealt with in the Crown court against sentences given in the magistrates court are published by the Ministry of Justice in table 6.10 of the annual command paper "Judicial and Court Statistics". Annual statistics on all appeals in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) against sentences in the Crown court are also published in Table 1.6 of this report. The most recent edition, presenting statistics for 2004 to 2008, was published in September 2009.

Copies of "Judicial and Court Statistics" are available in the Library of the House and from the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/judicialandcourtstatistics.htm

Closed Circuit Television: Local Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 80W, on closed circuit television (CCTV): local government, if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance issued by the Information Commissioner on the use of CCTV cameras with microphones; and what responsibilities the *(a)* Information Commissioner and *(b)* interim CCTV Regulator has in respect of the use of CCTV by local authorities. [319742]

Mr. Wills: Copies of the Information Commissioner's CCTV code of practice, which covers CCTV systems with microphones, have been placed in the House of Commons and House of Lords Libraries.

The Information Commissioner has a responsibility to ensure that any CCTV systems that are used to process personal data comply with the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998.

The Interim CCTV regulator is currently responsible for the development of policy on matters surrounding the use of CCTV in public places. His forward work programme will focus on scoping the need for and requirements of a possible regulatory framework, which could include standards, data retention, training, and a complaints process. He will work with local authorities and other key stakeholders to achieve this.

Crimes of Violence

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of an offence of violence relating to the use of force against intruders in their homes in each of the last 10 years. [319564]

Claire Ward: The court proceedings database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. The court proceedings database does not hold specific information on offences beyond descriptions provided by the statutes under which prosecutions are brought. Information available centrally on offences of assault do not identify if the victim was an intruder.

General Elections

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any expenses incurred by returning officers in undertaking a general election count immediately following the closure of the polls are considered to be reasonable additional expenses for which they may be reimbursed by the Government. [319436]

Mr. Wills: Returning Officers will be entitled to claim for charges necessarily incurred for the efficient and effective conduct of the election, up to the maximum recoverable amounts set out in an Order made by the Secretary of State ("the charges Order"). The maximum recoverable amounts in the charges order, which we are in the process of finalising, include an element for costs in conducting the verification and the count.

The amounts we have calculated for that element are based on estimates of the time taken to count the number of ballot papers expected to be returned in that constituency and an hourly rate of pay which takes into account the possibility of working at unsocial hours.

There is provision for the Secretary of State to authorise more than the maximum recoverable amount in a particular case provided that it was reasonable for the Returning Officer to incur the charges and the level of the charges in question is reasonable. Accordingly, any claim made by a returning officer for an additional payment above the maximum recoverable amount in connection with undertaking a count immediately after the poll has closed will need to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Isle of Man: Health Services

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect on the Sewel Convention of the decision to end on behalf of the whole of the UK the reciprocal health agreement with the Isle of Man with effect from 1 April 2010. [320154]

Mr. Wills: None. The Sewel Convention is not relevant to the UK's decision to end the reciprocal health care agreement with the Isle of Man, as it involves neither a devolved legislature nor any form of legislation.

The Sewel Convention is relevant to the relationship between the UK Parliament and the Scottish Parliament. Similar conventions apply to the relationship between the UK Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Assembly. The convention provides that the UK Parliament would not normally legislate with regard to devolved matters except with the agreement of the devolved legislature.

Political Parties

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which provisions of the *(a)* Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, *(b)* Electoral Administration Act 2006 and *(c)* Political Parties and Elections Act 2009 have not yet commenced; and for what reasons in each case. [319612][1]

Mr. Wills: I have provided a table which gives detail of the provisions that have not yet commenced, and the reasons for that, for the *(a)* Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, *(b)* Electoral Administration Act 2006 and *(c)* Political Parties and Elections Act 2009.

Section	*Description*	*Reason why not yet in force*
Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000		

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[1] .[*Official Report*, 10 March 2010; Vol. 507, c. 5MC.]

Section	*Description*	*Reason why not yet in force*
6(1)(c)	Review of electoral and political matters (redistribution of Parliamentary seats)	The Government accepted the recommendation of the Committee on Standards in Public Life's Eleventh Report, 'Review of the Electoral Commission', that the Electoral Commission should no longer have any involvement in electoral boundary matters and the provisions in PPERA to allow the transfer of boundary setting functions to the Commission should be repealed. Subsequently, the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 repealed these provisions and removes from the Electoral Commission functions relating to boundary and electoral changes
14 and Schedule 3	Boundary Committees, Transfer of Functions of Boundary Commissions	
17	Transfer of property etc of Boundary Commissions	
Schedule 21, paragraph 6(3),6(4),6(7)(1)(a),7	Minor and consequential amendments	Will be commenced at an appropriate time taking account of status of accounts from previous elections and allowing time for other changes contained in the EAA 2006 to bed in
Electoral Administration Act 2006		
1(2) and (5),2(2),(4)(9)-(12),5(10),7	CORE scheme	The CORE project has been paused to allow policy on individual electoral registration to develop first (individual registration may change the requirements for CORE and the context in which it is developed)
31(4) (as it relates to rule37(1)(d) schedule 1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983)	Replacement of counterfoils (procedure on close of poll)	Section 31 is commenced, except to the extent that it relates to sub-paragraph (d) of paragraph (1) of rule 37 of the parliamentary election rules, which remains under consideration
42-44 (as they relate to local government elections and authority elections as defined in section 203 of the Representation of the People Act 1983)	Control of documents after parliamentary election: access to election documents	Section 41 was commenced 1 January 2007. Policy changes in relation to election documents in Scotland, and secondary legislation, mean the commencement of sections 42 to 44 is, for the time being, unnecessary
59	Reporting donations to holders of certain elective offices	Commenced 1 July 2009 (so far as relates to a Member of the House of Commons). Otherwise under consideration
61(1)(2-4)(5)(6)	Regulation of loans etc.	Commenced 11 September 2006 (England, Wales, Scotland); 1 January 2007 (England, Wales, Scotland); 1 July 2008 (Northern Ireland) except so far as applies to minor parties within meaning of PPERA 2000 s160. The position of minor parties (i.e. those which do not seek to field candidates in parliamentary or local authority elections) remains under review
Schedule 1, Part 5, (75(1) amended rule 37 of the parliamentary rules set out in Schedule 1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983)	Amendments (Signing in Polling stations)	Remains under consideration in particular in the context of wider reforms to electoral registration
Political Parties and Elections Act 2009		
1(2),2,3(1),(3),(4),8, Schedules 1 and 2	Compliance with controls imposed by the 2000 Act etc; Investigatory powers of Commission; Civil Sanctions; Education about systems of government and EU institutions	The Electoral Commission's new powers will be commenced with effect from 1 July 2010. A statutory instrument supporting the civil sanctioning powers must be approved before section 3 and schedule 2 can be commenced
6	Number of Electoral Commissioners	The Speaker's Committee is considering proposed nominated Commissioners from party leaders. The provision will be commenced once the appointment process is complete

Section	*Description*	*Reason why not yet in force*
9-11 and Schedules 3 and 4	Declaration as to source of donation; Non-resident donors etc; Non-resident lenders etc.	As set out in the written ministerial statement of 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 68-70 WS: "Officials have begun preliminary work on the prerequisites to implementation of these provisions. However, as stated during consideration of Lords Amendments to the Bill, we are practically unable to commence Sections 10 and 11 before the summer of 2010 due to their complex nature. Section 9, which requires donors to provide declarations as to the true origins of all donations of over £7,500, will be commenced alongside Sections 10 and 11 to ensure consistency in approach, which will be welcomed by those who make political donations, as well as parties and other recipients who will have to ensure that they comply with the additional declaration requirement."
25	Disposal of election documents in Scotland	Planned for commencement with effect from 1 July 2010
27	Returning officers for elections to the European Parliament	The intention is to commence this provision in due course in time for implementation ahead of the next scheduled European Parliamentary elections in 2014
28-29	CORE keeper	The CORE project has been paused to allow policy on individual electoral registration to develop first (individual registration may change the requirements for CORE and the context in which it is developed)
30,31,35,36	Electoral registration: Voluntary provision of identifying information; Regulations amending or supplementing section 30; Schemes for provision of data to registration officers: Schemes under section 35: proposals, consultation and evaluation	The timetable for the introduction of individual electoral registration remains as set out during the parliamentary passage of the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009. During Commons Consideration of Lords Amendments on 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 99, Michael Wills said: "Our approach to individual registration is to move in two phases: a voluntary phase and a compulsory phase...The voluntary phase will not commence before July 2010...and will not finish before 2014. That period will enable us to be fully confident that the system is ready before we move to the compulsory phase...It will enable us to prepare the public for the change, and to take steps to bolster registration rates in the meantime. That will be fundamental to protecting the system against the risk of a drop in the numbers registered." A project has been established to design and implement processes for the collection and storage of personal identifiers in the voluntary phase of individual electoral registration.
32(1)-(5)-(11)	Report by Electoral Commission on provision of identifying information	This section can only be commenced once sections 30 and 31 have come into force
33 and 34	Obligatory provision of identifying information (and provision supplementing 33)	The commencement of this section is linked to the annual reports produced by the Electoral Commission under section 32. Upon a positive recommendation being made by the Electoral Commission in 2014 the commencement of sections 33 and 34 will need to be debated and approved by both Houses.
	Minor and consequential amendments	The commencement of relevant minor and consequential amendments is dependant on commencement of other sections of the Act and will be brought forward as appropriate

Section	*Description*	*Reason why not yet in force*
	Repeals	

Prison Places: Expenditure

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost to the public purse was of a place in prison in each of the last three years. [319561]

Maria Eagle: The average direct prison cost per prison place in each of the last three financial years is as follows:

Financial year	£
2008-09	30,000
2007-08	31,000
2006-07	30,000

The direct prison cost is only the expenditure met locally by prisons. It does not include expenditure met at area, regional, or national level by Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS) or the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). The figure for 2008-09 includes private prisons and is net of income from the Department of Health and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

For the last two years (2008-09 and 2007-08) an overall average cost per prison place including prison related costs met by NOMS, in addition to the direct prison cost, has been calculated as:

Financial year	£
2008-09	45,000
2007-08	43,000

The overall average cost for 2008-09 comprises the expenditure on public and private prisons (as recorded in the NOMS agency annual report and accounts), increased by an apportionment of relevant costs borne centrally and in the regions by NOMS. This involves some estimation. In addition, expenditure met centrally by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) is included. The figures do not include the cost of prisoners held in police or court cells under Operation Safeguard, nor expenditure met by other Government Departments (e.g. Health and Education). The prisoner escort service costs are included. Expenditure recharged to the YJB in respect of young people is included.

The overall cost for 2007-08 was calculated on a broadly similar basis. Cost per prison place is expressed in terms of the certified normal accommodation number of places; this gives a higher unit cost than the cost per prisoner. Figures to nearest £1,000.

Prison Places: Finance

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the cost of *(a)* prisoner health care, *(b)* prisoner education services, *(c)* drug addiction services and *(d)* dog handling are taken into account in his Department's estimates of the cost of a prison place in England and Wales. [319437]

Maria Eagle: For 2008-09 the overall cost of a prison place was £45,000 (to nearest £1,000). This includes expenditure met by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the Youth Justice Board (YJB). It does not include expenditure met by other Government Departments (e.g. for health and education).

In general health care costs are not included. Where prisons have been contracted out to the private sector the cost to NOMS includes health care and this is included in the cost per place above. In general prisoner education services are not included. Where prisons have been contracted out to the private sector the cost to NOMS includes education and this is included in the cost per place above. In general clinical drug addiction services are not included. Services which are the responsibility of NOMS (e.g. drug testing, accredited drug treatment programmes and Counselling, Assessment, Referral advice and Throughcare services) are included. Dog handling costs are included.

Before 2008-09 Her Majesty's Prison Service Annual report and Accounts included the direct prison cost per place. This included only the expenditure met and managed locally at each prison and excluded expenditure met at area, region or national level. The reported figures included expenditure on health care and education which was recharged to the other Government Departments. It did not include that expenditure met directly by other Government Departments.

The overall average cost for 2008-09 comprises the expenditure on public and private prisons (as recorded in the NOMS Agency Annual Report and Accounts), increased by an apportionment of relevant costs borne centrally and in the regions by NOMS. This involves some estimation. In addition, expenditure met centrally by the YJB is included. The figures do not include the cost of prisoners held in police or court cells under Operation Safeguard, nor expenditure met by other Government Departments (e.g. Health and Education). The prisoner escort service costs are included. Expenditure recharged to the YJB in respect of young people is included.

Cost per prison place is expressed in terms of the Certified Normal Accommodation number of places; this gives a higher unit cost than the cost per prisoner.

Prison Service: Racial discrimination

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers have been dismissed on grounds of racist behaviour in each of the last three years. [319560]

Maria Eagle: Staff working in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) are expected to meet high standards of professional and personal conduct. Behaviour constituting discrimination, harassment, victimisation or bullying—including instances which involve a racial element—will not be tolerated and, depending on the individual circumstances of the case, would fall under the category of gross misconduct and would invariably lead to dismissal.

Details of disciplinary outcomes are recorded centrally according to the type of misconduct rather than the actual offence committed by the member of staff. According to central records, five prison officers have been dismissed from public sector Prison Service establishments on grounds of racist behaviour since 1 January 2007. A breakdown of this information is provided in the following table.

Calendar year	*Dismissals*[1]
2007	4
2008	0
2009	1
Total	5

[1] Data on disciplinary dismissals are derived from the HR Discipline Database and the Shared Service Personnel Management Database. As with any large-scale administrative systems these are liable to a certain level of inaccuracy. Cases that are ongoing or subject to internal appeal have not been included.

There may be additional cases on the central databases which have not been recorded as racist in nature. In order to confirm the accuracy of this data, NOMS would need to contact all public sector Prison Service establishments, ask them to check their local records for the period required and ask them to submit this information to Headquarters so that the central records can be updated. This would incur disproportionate cost.

NOMS believes that the key to long-term success in tackling unacceptable behaviour is to embed a sustainable diversity infrastructure across the service. A major initiative in this area has been the development of Challenge It Change It, a new training course and diversity toolkit. This is being introduced across the public sector prison service and NOMS HQ and is receiving very positive feedback.

Prisoners: Education and Drugs

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 508W, on prisoners: education and drugs, what proportion of offenders in the *(a)* CARAT programme and *(b)* Young People's Substance Misuse Service programme successfully completed the course of drug intervention in each year since 2005-06. [319659]

Maria Eagle: The Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare service (CARATs) is the key non-clinical gateway drug treatment service in prisons for prisoners aged over 18. The Young People's Substance Misuse Service (YPSMS) provides a similar service for all young people (aged 15-18) in custody. Neither CARATs nor YPSMS is an intervention in its own right. Both provide a gateway to support, information, structured interventions and resettlement planning for prisoners with substance misuse problems. As a consequence, there is not necessarily a point where a prisoner could be considered to have successfully or unsuccessfully completed their engagement with either service.

The following table shows the number of initial assessments carried out by CARATs and YPSMS in each of the full financial years since 2005-09. This gives an indication of the number of prisoners and young people engaged with drug treatment services in custody, although the level of engagement will vary according to individuals' needs.

	Interventions delivered[1]				
Intervention type	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare service (CARATs) substance misuse triage assessments	59,000	66,000	65,700	65,800	66,600
Young People's Substance Misuse Services (YPSMS) initial assessments	—	8,500	8,300	7,400	7,000

[1] Rounded to nearest 100

Prisons: Sanitation

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the number of prison cells without in-cell sanitation; and what plans his Department has to install in-cell sanitation in those cells. [319481]

Maria Eagle: There are about 2,000 cells on normal location across the prison estate that do not have integral sanitation but which have electronic unlocking facilities, which permits a prisoner to leave the cell to access sanitation and washing facilities on a call system. This system was approved as a method of ending 'slopping out', as set out in the Judge Tumin report of 1989. There are also some further cells on the prison estate without integral sanitation but which permit prisoners to have open access to central sanitation facilities via their privacy locks This was also acceptable to Judge Tumin as a method of ending of ending "slopping out".

Cells with the current electronic unlocking facilities are too small for the installation of integral sanitation.

Probation Boards: Wales

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many members there were of each probation board in Wales on 31 December 2009. [319553]

Maria Eagle: The board members on each of the two probation areas and two probation trusts in Wales on 31 December 2009 were as follows:

Probation area/trust	*Board members (including the chair and chief officer/chief executive)*
Dyfed Powys Probation Trust	7
Gwent Probation Area	9
North Wales Probation Area	12
South Wales Probation Trust	10

Probation Officers: Wales

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation officers in each pay band at each grade were employed in each probation area in Wales on 31 December 2009. [319552]

Maria Eagle: There is only one pay band and grade for probation officers (introduced via the National Job Evaluation Scheme), which is Band 4. The number employed on 31 December 2009 were as follows:

Area/trust	*Probation officers*
Dyfed Powys Probation Trust	[1]38.10
Gwent Probation Area	[1]73.04
South Wales Probation Trust	[1]120.62
North Wales Probation Area	[1]164.20

[1] Whole-time equivalent.

Probation: Per Capita Costs

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of average annual cost to the public purse per offender of *(a)* probation supervision, *(b)* probation supervision with a drug programme attachment, *(c)* probation supervision with an anger management programme attachment and *(d)* probation supervision with a domestic violence programme attachment. [319450]

Maria Eagle: The funding for the supervision of offenders and the delivery of programmes in the community is part of the general grant given to probation areas or trusts. The costs will vary and depend on a number of factors including the risk presented by the individual, the level of supervision required, the programme the individual attends, and the arrangements for delivery in the particular area. It is not possible to accurately disaggregate the cost of this work.

Full costs of probation services will be collected and published in order to benchmark the whole probation system by the end of 2011.

Probation: Reoffenders

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate of the rate of re-offending after two years was following completion of a *(a)* domestic violence, *(b)* cognitive behaviour and *(c)* drugs programme in each probation area in Wales. [319549]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice does not produce statistics on reoffending rates following the completion of programmes. National Statistics on the reoffending of adults released from custody or commencing a court order or suspended sentence order are published annually for England and Wales; they are not broken down for Wales alone. The Ministry of Justice also publishes local reoffending data for all offenders on the probation caseload, which are available at the Probation Area level. These data measure the reoffending of all offenders under probation supervision over three months. For more information about these statistics please see:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

and

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/local-adult-reoffending.htm

There is international research evidence (but no specific Welsh research that we are aware of) showing that general offending behaviour programmes, anger management/violence reduction programmes and some drugs interventions are effective in reducing reoffending, although the evidence regarding domestic violence programmes is limited and remains tentative.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the rate of re-offending after two years following completion of a *(a)* a probation or supervision order, *(b)* a probation or supervision order with conditions and *(c)* unpaid work in each probation area in Wales. [319550]

Maria Eagle: The requested data are not available. National reoffending data are based on offences committed within one year of offenders' release from custody or commencement of a court order under probation supervision, and cover England and Wales as a whole.

In addition to the national statistics on reoffending, the Ministry of Justice publishes local reoffending data for all offenders on the probation caseload. These data are available at the probation area level. These data measure the reoffending of all offenders under probation supervision over a period of three months. The results are produced by aggregating four quarters of data. Therefore the number of offenders quoted in the following table is approximately four times the number of offenders on the caseload at any one time.

The most recent reoffending rates for offenders on court orders under probation supervision for probation areas in Wales are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Local reoffending rates for probation areas in Wales, 1 October2008 to 30 September 2009

Probation area	*Number of offenders*	*Proportion of offenders that reoffended within three months*
Dyfed-Powys	4,106	11.15
Gwent	7,091	10.68
North Wales	7,730	10.71
South Wales	17,140	11.00

[illegible] breakdown by requirement type is not available.

Further information on the reoffending of adult offenders on the probation caseload is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/local-adult-reoffending.htm

Further information on the National Statistics on adult reoffending is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Probation: Wales

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people completed and passed a probation programme in each probation area in Wales in each year since 2005. [319548]

Maria Eagle: The Accredited Programme Completions for each full year from 2005 are as follows:

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
North Wales Probation Area	219	270	275	269
South Wales Probation Trust	468	552	410	494

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Gwent Probation Area	198	208	213	213
Dyfed Powys Probation Trust	138	157	151	153
Total	1,023	1,187	1,049	1,129

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff of each grade were employed by each probation area in Wales on 31 December *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 1999. [319551]

Maria Eagle: Data on how many staff of each grade were employed by Wales Probation Areas/Trusts on 31 December 2009 are as follows:

Grade	*North Wales*[1]	*Gwent*[1]	*South Wales*[1]	*Dyfed-Powys*[1]
Chief Executive	1	1	[2]1	1
ACO Level	3.10	4	7.65	4
Grade 6 (includes Area Managers)	4	2	8.80	0
Grade 5 (includes Senior Probation Officer's)	28.60	18.5	75.32	21.40
Grade 4 (includes Probation Officers)	79.20	85.04	152.44	45.10
Grade 3 (includes Probation Service Officer's)	67.63	86.46	61.38	209.08
Grade 2 (admin)	24.12	32.05	96.69	26.9
Grade 1 (lower admin)	8.21	13.99	7.30	5.40

[1] WTE = whole-time equivalent
[2] Acting

Reliable data on 1999 staff in post are not available for all areas/trusts. This type of information is usually retained in accordance with the six-year retention limit specified by the Data Protection Act 1998.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons he decided to establish an all-Wales probation trust to replace the four probation service areas in Wales. [319554]

Maria Eagle: The application to form an all-Wales trust met the criteria required for Trust status in terms of performance and it is considered that this would be the best means of delivering locally tailored and cost effective services for all communities in Wales.

In common with all probation trusts, the Wales trust will be formed of local delivery units who are empowered to work with partners to understand and meet local needs, either through direct provision or commissioning. These units will provide a visible local presence for probation in all communities and ensure that the diverse needs in different parts of Wales are met. Compared with the retention of four separate probation areas in Wales, the single trust will save £1.5 million. This additional saving equates to 46 posts in corporate support and governance arrangements. In reducing management overheads, the all-Wales trust will focus resources on the frontline, improving public protection. These savings will allow 34 full-time equivalent probation officers to be employed across Wales who would otherwise not be funded.

Young Offender Institution: Costs

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost of providing a place in a young offender institution was in each of the last three years. [319686]

Maria Eagle: The average direct prison cost per place in a young offender institution for each of the last three financial years is as follows:

Financial year	£
2008-09	34,000
2007-08	34,000
2006-07	33,000

The direct prison cost is only the expenditure met locally by prisons. It does not include expenditure met at area, regional, or national level by Her Majesty's Prison service (HMPS) or the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). The figure for 2008-09 includes private prisons and is net of income from the Department of Health and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

For the last two years (2008-09 and 2007-08) an overall average cost per place in a young offender institution including prison related costs met by NOMS, in addition to the direct prison cost, has been calculated as follows:

Financial year	£
2008-09	50,000
2007-08	49,000

The overall average cost for 2008-09 comprises the expenditure on public and private prisons (as recorded in the NOMS agency annual report and accounts), increased by an apportionment of relevant costs borne centrally and in the regions by NOMS. This involves some estimation. In addition, expenditure met centrally by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in respect of prisoners under the age of 18 is included. The figures do not include the cost of prisoners held in police or court cells under Operation Safeguard, nor expenditure met by other Government Departments (e.g. Health and Education). The prisoner escort service costs are included. Expenditure recharged to the YJB in respect of young people is included. Prison costs are classified to categories according to each prison's major use at the end of the year. If a YOI shares a site with an adult prison (over 21 years) the YOI cost will not be reflected in the figures above.

The overall cost for 2007-08 was calculated on a broadly similar basis. Cost per prison place is expressed in terms of the certified normal accommodation number of places; this gives a higher unit cost than the cost per prisoner. Figures to nearest £1,000.

Young Offender Institutions: Social Workers

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1248W, on young offender institutions: social workers, how many *(a)* social worker posts and *(b)* vacant social worker posts there are in each young offender institution in England and Wales. [316177]

Maria Eagle: The number of social worker posts and vacant social worker posts there are in each young offender institution in England and Wales are shown in the table.

Local authorities have a legal responsibility to provide social work services to children in need. We are actively exploring with the Association of Directors of Children's Services and the Youth Justice Board what more we can do to ensure local authorities fulfil their responsibilities in this regard.

Establishment	*Number of social worker posts*	*Number of vacancies*
Young People's Estate		
Ashfield	2	2
Brinsford[1]	0	0
Castington	1	0
Cookham Wood	1	0
Feltham	2	2
Hindley	4.5	2.5
Huntercombe	2	0
Parc	0	0
Stoke Heath	1	0
Warren Hill	2.5	1.5
Werrington	1	0
Wetherby	2	1
Young Women's Units		
Downview	0.5	0.5
Eastwood Park	1	1
Foston Hall	0	0
New Hall	1	0

[1] Brinsford will be decommissioned in mid-February, so will no longer be part of the young people's estate.

Note:

The data in this table have been provided by NOMS.

Youth Offending Teams

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1077W, on local government finance, what requirements local authorities have to submit data not contained in the national indicator set to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies other than the Youth Justice Board. [319462]

Claire Ward: Local authorities have no central requirements to submit data not contained in the national indicator set to the Ministry of Justice and its agencies.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1077W, on local government finance, how many different items of data are collected from local authorities as part of the mandatory summary-level process by the Youth Justice Board. [319520]

Maria Eagle: The Youth Justice Board collects local authority data from youth offending teams. 12 different mandatory summary-level data items are collected. These data items are:

Rate of reoffending (National Indicator 19/Welsh Youth Justice Indicator 2) broken down by disposal

Use of custody (National Indicator 43/Welsh Youth Justic Indicator 3)

Ethnic Disproportionality (National Indicator 44—only Englis YOTs submit these data) compared to overall 10-17 populatio

Education, training and employment (National Indicator 45/Wels Youth Justice Indicator 4)

Accommodation (National Indicator 46/Welsh Youth Justic Indicator 5)

First-time Entrants (National Indicator 111/Welsh Youth Justic Indicator 1), broken down by ethnicity and gender

Access to substance misuse services (Welsh Youth Justice Indicato 6—only Welsh YOTs submit these data)

Annual YOT budget and staffing data

Prevention programme data, caseload, number of young peopl starting programme by age, gender and ethnicity, number wh become first-time entrants, number receiving education, trainin and employment at start/end and 'Onset' progress

Knife Possession Prevention Programmes data, young peopl convicted of knife-enabled offence who receive a knife 'interventio by age, gender and ethnicity

Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme data, numbe of young people starting, qualifying for and breaching programm by age, gender ethnicity and disposal

Priority and Prolific Offenders data, number, age, gender an ethnicity of young people in cohort and reoffending rate

Integrated resettlement support data, 'Asset' progress and numbe of young people starting on and completing integrated resettlemen support, broken down by offence, ethnicity, age and gender

TREASURY

Banknotes: Forgery

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many counterfeit banknotes have been seized in the UK in each of the last two years for which figures are available; and how many purported to have been issued by *(a)* the Bank of England, *(b)* Scottish banks and *(c)* banks in Northern Ireland. [319952]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Bank of England is responsible for collating statistics on counterfeits of its own banknotes and these are available at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/about/counterfeits.htm

Scottish and Northern Ireland banknote issuers are responsible for collating statistical information on counterfeits of their own banknote issue. The Scottish banks publish their statistics on the Committee of Scottish Clearing banks website available at:

http://www.scotbanks.org.uk/banknote_counterfeit.php

The Northern Irish banknote issuers do not publish statistics on counterfeits of their banknote issue.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average council tax band of a new build dwelling in England was in the latest period for which figures are available. [319121]

Ian Pearson: The band which has most frequently been applied to dwellings first brought into council tax valuation lists between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009 in England is band B.

Financial Services: Advisory Services

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to provide financial advisory services through the Post Office network. [319422]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government currently have no plans to provide financial advisory services specifically through the Post Office network.

The Government however are committed to ensuring that people can access helpful, impartial information and guidance on money. This will help them make better-informed financial decisions, manage their money well and avoid getting into financial difficulty. As part of this, the Government will shortly launch the roll-out of a national Money Guidance service.

The Government have also indicated that they want Post Office to play a bigger role in banking services. A public consultation on Post Office banking recently closed on 24 February and the Government are now considering the comments they received and will publish their response in due course.

Government: Assets

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what correspondence his Department has had with the Crown Estate on its proposed sale of the *(a)* Cumberland Market, *(b)* Millbank, *(c)* Victoria Park and *(d)* Lee Green housing estate; and if he will make a statement. [319945]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury has been kept informed of the current consultation taking place. Recent correspondence included the materials sent to residents of the estates. No decision has yet been made.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 766W, on housing: valuation, how many and what proportion of dwellings in England have an entry on the Valuation Office Agency database with *(a)* dwellinghouse coding and *(b)* one or more value significant codes assigned to them. [319736]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 140W.

Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many pleasure piers were on the Valuation Office Agency's Rating List in England in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2010; [319002]

(2) how many Traveller camp pitches in England were on the Valuation Office Agency's rating List in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2010; [319127]

(3) how many public libraries in England were on the Valuation Office Agency's rating List in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2010; [319128]

(4) how many premises of law courts in England were on the Valuation Office Agency's Rating List in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2010; [319221]

(5) how many zoos in England were on the Valuation Office Agency's Rating List in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2010; [319223]

(6) how many lap dancing venues in England were on the Valuation Office Agency's Rating List in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2010; [319291]

(7) how many public telephone boxes in England were on the Valuation Office Agency's Rating List in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2010; [319293]

(8) how many nightclubs and discotheques in England were on the Valuation Office Agency's Rating List in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2010; [319294]

(9) how many supermarkets with a floor area of over 2,500 square metres in England were on the Valuation Office Agency's Rating List in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2010; [319295]

(10) how many public conveniences in England were on the Valuation Office Agency's Rating List in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2010; [319301]

(11) how many drive-in and drive-through restaurants in England were on the Valuation Office Agency's Rating List in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2010; [319302]

(12) how many Post Offices in England were on the Valuation Office Agency's Rating List in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2010; [319306]

(13) how many petrol filling stations in England were on the Valuation Office Agency's Rating List in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2010; [319313]

(14) how many *(a)* casinos and gambling clubs and *(b)* bingo halls in England were on the Valuation Office Agency's Rating List in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2010. [319315]

Ian Pearson: For the number of properties on the list in 1997, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 232W.

For the number of property types on the list in 2010, I refer the hon. Member to the statistical release titled "Non-domestic rateable values: 2010 Local Ratings Lists - England and Wales" published on 18 December 2009. A copy of this statistical release is available at the following link:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/VOA_Statistics_Release_Final.pdf

Revenue and Customs: Peterhead

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consultation HM Revenue and Customs has undertaken with staff based at Keith House, Peterhead, over the Workforce Change programme. [311964]

Mr. Timms: Staff at the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office at Keith House, Peterhead were invited to give their views on the proposal to vacate the office during an eight week period from 11 June to 6 August 2008.

Following the announcement on 4 December 2008 that HMRC would withdraw from Keith House, managers have held one-to-one meetings with staff to discuss their options, taking account of individual personal circumstances. A regional implementation team was set up to explore redeployment options and find suitable opportunities within HMRC and in other Government Departments and Agencies. Seminars for all affected staff are being held, and further support is being planned for those staff who want to continue their civil service careers.

Taxation: Gaming Machines

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons HM Revenue and Customs proposes to reclassify skills with prize machines as gaming machines; and what account that proposal takes of his Department's policy on retrospective taxation. [319739]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The definition of a gaming machine for the purpose of amusement machine licence duty (AMLD) is provided by section 25 of the Betting and Gaming Duties Act 1981 which, in turn, refers to section 6 of the Gambling Act 2005.

HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs, in consultation with the Gambling Commission and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, will undertake a review of Skill with prizes machines and the games played on them for the purposes of AMLD. The review was announced on 26 February and will report to Ministers in four months. The review will also consider the issue of tax arrears applicable to some machines.

Valuation Office Agency

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency has requested access to data held on the *(a)* Home Condition Register, *(b)* Energy Performance Certificate Register and *(c)* National Register of Social Housing. [319630]

Ian Pearson: The Valuation Office Agency has not requested access to data held on the Home Condition Report or Energy Performance Certificate Registers, but has requested and received data held on the National Register of Social Housing.

VAT: Alcoholic Drinks

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of value added tax arrangements on loss-leading marketing promotions of alcohol by retailers. [320116]

Mr. Timms: No such assessment has been made. VAT returns to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) by retailers and other businesses do not distinguish payments or recovery of VAT on alcohol products from those on other sales.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been fined for selling alcohol to under-age persons in each year since 1997; and what the average fine was in each such year. [313016]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information on the number of fines issued by the courts and the average fine amount for "selling alcohol to persons under 18" for each year between 1997 and 2008 is provided in the following table. This does not include data on penalty notices for disorder, which can also be issued for underage sales.

Total fines given and average fine amount, selling alcohol to underage, 1997 to 2008

		1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*[*]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
14203	*Selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18 on the premises*												
	Number of fines issued	111	129	95	46	42	80	353	519	662	438	37	21
	Average fine imposed (£)	227	212	194	206	208	249	253	238	246	293	276	376
14379	*Sale of alcohol to person under 18*												
	Number of fines issued	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	17	278	425	287
	Average fine imposed (£)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	206	251	324	375	378

Total fines given and average fine amount, selling alcohol to underage, 1997 to 2008

		1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
14380	*Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18*												
	Number of fines issued	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	6	14
	Average fine imposed (£)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	276	467	603
14352	*Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18*												
	Number of fines issued	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	—	—	—
	Average fine imposed (£)	—	50.00	—	—	—	—	—	160.00	233.33	—	—	—
14398	*Persistently selling alcohol to children*												
	Number of fines issued	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
	Average fine imposed (£)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	968.75

Notes:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.

2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

3. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Source:

Ministry of Justice

Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason Section 24 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 has yet to be repealed. [319541]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* We have no plans to review section 24 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 before we know the outcome of European Union Directive 86/609/EEC on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes, which is currently being debated in the European Union.

We have never given a commitment to repeal section 24, only to review it.

Arrest Warrants

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many European Arrest Warrants have been *(a)* sought and *(b)* obtained by police forces and other organisations in England in respect of (i) each category of crime and (ii) each other member state; and if he will make a statement. [317728]

Meg Hillier: The information requested is as follows:

(a) We are unable to answer this part of the question. SOCA does not receive any information on the European Arrest Warrants (EAWs) which are applied for by UK Law Enforcement and only receives EAWs which have been issued.

(b) The data held on the number of EAWs issued cannot be broken down to reflect the figures for England only. All figures relate to the whole of the UK.

The figures for the number of EAWs issued by UK prosecuting authorities and transmitted by SOCA are as follows:

	EAWs issued	*Persons extradited to the UK*
2004	96	19
2005	131	63
2006	126	76
2007	198	99
2008	218	96

It is not possible from current systems to provide data broken down into the number of EAWs issued by the UK in respect of each category of crime or of each other member state. This would require a manual examination of all files and incur disproportionate cost.

Beer Glasses

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the effect on the number of injuries which would result from the national roll-out of the prototype shatter-proof pint glasses developed by his Department's Design and Technology Alliance; and if he will make it his policy to provide financial support to independent pub landlords to acquire stocks of such glasses. [318151]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There are around 87,000 violent incidents involving glassware each year. In the majority of cases where violent crime involving glassware is reported it is most commonly pint glasses which are broken and used as sharp weapons. The *British Medical Journal* has highlighted that the injury caused by drinking glasses could be substantially reduced by the use of toughened glass in premises.

We anticipate the cost of the new glasses will be similar to existing standard toughened glass. Cost will clearly be a consideration as we move forward with these prototypes. Both glass solutions should have a potentially longer lifespan than existing glass, therefore we do not have any plans to financially support trade in acquiring stocks of the glasses as it would be part of their natural expenditure.

Communications Capabilities Directorate

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what expenditure his Department has incurred on its Communications Capabilities Directorate since it was established. [318267]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* The Communication Capabilities Directorate brings together work to ensure that, in a changing communications environment, communications data and interception of communications can continue to protect the public and save lives. This includes implementing the European Union data retention directive and looking at how communications data capabilities can be maintained in the future as technology continues to evolve through the Interception Modernisation Programme. The Directorate is also working with public authorities to improve training around the use of communications data to maximise efficiencies as suggested by feedback to the 2009 public consultation 'Protecting the Public in a Changing Communications Environment'. The Directorate has incurred expenditure of £14 million since it was established. This includes resources, facilities and capital expenditure.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts the Communications Capabilities Directorate has put out to tender in the last 12 months; and how many it plans to put out to tender in the next 12 months. [318269]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* Details of any past or future plans to tender cannot be disclosed on grounds of national security.

Crime

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the percentage change was in *(a)* total recorded crime, *(b)* crimes involving violence against the person, *(c)* robbery and *(d)* burglary in each basic command unit area between 2002-03 and 2008-09. [319785]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* The information requested is given in the table. The basic command unit (BCU) structure in some forces has changed across this period, as reflected in the table.

Table: Percentage change of recorded crime by BCU (basic command unit) between 2002-03 and 2008-09[1]

		Percentage difference			
Police force	*BCU name*[2]	*Total recorded crime*	*Violence against person*	*Robbery*	*Burglary*
Avon and Somerset	Bath and North East Somerset	-26	84	-55	-43
Avon and Somerset	Bristol (after April 2004)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Avon and Somerset	Central Bristol	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Avon and Somerset	North Bristol	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Avon and Somerset	North Somerset	-15	22	-34	-35
Avon and Somerset	Somerset East	-25	11	-69	-53
Avon and Somerset	Somerset West	-19	4	-36	-36
Avon and Somerset	South Bristol	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Avon and Somerset	South Gloucester	-8	40	-37	-11
Bedfordshire	Bedford	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bedfordshire	Beds County (after April 2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bedfordshire	Dunstable	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bedfordshire	Luton	-26	-3	-5	-9
Cambridgeshire	Cambridgeshire Central	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cambridgeshire	Cambridgeshire Northern	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cambridgeshire	Cambridgeshire Southern	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cambridgeshire	Cambs Central (after April 2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cambridgeshire	Cambs Northern (after April 2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cambridgeshire	Cambs Southern (after April 2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cheshire	Chester and Ellesmere Port	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cheshire	Congleton and Vale Royal	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cheshire	Crewe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Table: Percentage change of recorded crime by BCU (basic command unit) between 2002-03 and 2008-09[1]

		Percentage difference			
Police force	*BCU name*[2]	*Total recorded crime*	*Violence against person*	*Robbery*	*Burglary*
Cheshire	Eastern Cheshire (after April 2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cheshire	Halton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cheshire	Macclesfield	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cheshire	Northern Cheshire (after April 2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cheshire	Warrington	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cheshire	Western Cheshire (after April 2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cleveland	Hartlepool	-28	39	-66	-65
Cleveland	Langbaurgh (Redcar and Cleveland)	-16	41	-60	-41
Cleveland	Middlesbrough	-29	42	-77	-61
Cleveland	Stockton	-25	41	-62	-61
Cumbria	Barrow and Kendal	-12	23	-71	-44
Cumbria	Carlisle and Penrith	-20	23	-67	-46
Cumbria	Workington and Whitehaven	-20	13	-44	-53
Derbyshire	Alfreton (A Division)	-23	18	-14	-51
Derbyshire	Buxton (B Division)	-23	-9	22	-24
Derbyshire	Chesterfield (C Division)	-23	9	-61	-47
Derbyshire	Derby (D Division)	-36	-34	-19	-48
Devon and Cornwall	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	-27	-22	-34	-29
Devon and Cornwall	Devon	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Devon and Cornwall	North and East Devon	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Devon and Cornwall	Plymouth	-21	-5	-32	-38
Devon and Cornwall	South and West Devon	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dorset	Bournemouth	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dorset	Bournemouth and Poole	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dorset	Dorset County	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dorset	Dorset Eastern	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dorset	Dorset Western	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dorset	Poole	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Durham	Darlington	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Durham	Derwentside	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Durham	Durham	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Durham	Easington	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Durham	North Durham (after April 2004)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Durham	Sedgefield	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Durham	South Durham (after April 2004)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Durham	Wear-Tees	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dyfed-Powys	Carmarthenshire	-12	-21	-36	-5
Dyfed-Powys	Ceredigion	-16	-25	-63	-16
Dyfed-Powys	Pembrokeshire	5	7	18	6
Dyfed-Powys	Powys	11	-2	43	36
Essex	Basildon	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Essex	Braintree	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Essex	Chelmsford	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Essex	Colchester	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Essex	Essex Central	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Essex	Essex Eastern	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Essex	Essex South Eastern	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Essex	Essex South Western	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Essex	Essex Western	-9	16	-14	-9
Essex	Rayleigh	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Essex	Southend	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Essex	Stansted Airport	-20	50	*	-75
Essex	Tendring	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Essex	Thurrock	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gloucestershire	Cheltenham and Tewkesbury	-25	8	-47	-34
Gloucestershire	Cotswold and Stroud	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gloucestershire	Cotswold and Stroud (after April 2008)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gloucestershire	Forest and Gloucester	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gloucestershire	Forest and Gloucester (after April 2008)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Greater Manchester	Bolton	-31	-18	-45	-52
Greater Manchester	Bury	-27	-3	-38	-49
Greater Manchester	Manchester Airport (after April 2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Greater Manchester	Metropolitan (after April 2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Table: Percentage change of recorded crime by BCU (basic command unit) between 2002-03 and 2008-09[1]

		Percentage difference			
Police force	*BCU name*[2]	*Total recorded crime*	*Violence against person*	*Robbery*	*Burglary*
Greater Manchester	North Manchester	-17	-9	-49	-29
Greater Manchester	Oldham	-27	-17	-10	-51
Greater Manchester	Rochdale	-21	-4	-33	-47
Greater Manchester	Salford	-26	15	-43	-53
Greater Manchester	South Manchester	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Greater Manchester	South Manchester (after April 2008)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Greater Manchester	Stockport	-30	-23	-12	-46
Greater Manchester	Tameside	-22	-1	-10	-35
Greater Manchester	Trafford	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Greater Manchester	Trafford (after April 2008)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Greater Manchester	Wigan	-25	5	-14	-52
Gwent	Blaenau Gwent	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gwent	Caerphilly	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gwent	Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gwent	Newport	-12	-24	-40	-16
Gwent	Pontypool	-17	-52	-16	-24
Hampshire	Andover	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hampshire	Basingstoke	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hampshire	Central Hampshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hampshire	Central Hants (after April 2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hampshire	Eastleigh	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hampshire	Fareham	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hampshire	Gosport	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hampshire	Havant	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hampshire	Isle of Wight	7	37	-37	-49
Hampshire	New Forest	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hampshire	North and East Hampshire (after April 2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hampshire	North East Hampshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hampshire	Portsmouth	5	28	15	24
Hampshire	Southampton	13	48	33	-14
Hampshire	Western Hampshire (after April 2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hertfordshire	Hertfordshire Central	-16	34	-23	-27
Hertfordshire	Hertfordshire Eastern	-5	46	-4	-11
Hertfordshire	Hertfordshire Western	-15	22	-7	-25
Humberside	East Riding of Yorkshire	-25	-5	-68	-48
Humberside	Kingston upon Hull	-41	14	-69	-58
Humberside	North East Lincolnshire	-26	14	-33	-38
Humberside	North Lincolnshire	-24	8	-24	-48
Kent	Canterbury	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kent	East Kent	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kent	Maidstone	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kent	Medway	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kent	Medway (after April 2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kent	Mid Kent	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kent	North Kent	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kent	North Kent (after April 2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kent	South-East Kent	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kent	South Kent	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kent	Swale	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kent	Thanet	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kent	Weald	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kent	West Kent	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kent	West Kent (after April 2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lancashire	Lancashire Central	-20	21	-36	-45
Lancashire	Lancashire Eastern	-20	19	-19	-45
Lancashire	Lancashire Northern	-8	23	-39	-43
Lancashire	Lancashire Southern	-8	40	-26	-38
Lancashire	Lancashire Western	5	52	-49	-26
Lancashire	Pennine	-6	27	-52	-13
Leicestershire	Central Leicestershire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Leicestershire	East Leicestershire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Leicestershire	Leics City (after April 2007)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Leicestershire	North Leicestershire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Table: Percentage change of recorded crime by BCU (basic command unit) between 2002-03 and 2008-09[1]

		Percentage difference			
Police force	*BCU name*[2]	*Total recorded crime*	*Violence against person*	*Robbery*	*Burglary*
Leicestershire	North Leics (after April 2007)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Leicestershire	South Leicestershire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Leicestershire	West Leicestershire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lincolnshire	East Lincolnshire	-17	0	-44	-33
Lincolnshire	South Lincolnshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lincolnshire	South Lincs (after April 2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lincolnshire	West Lincolnshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lincolnshire	West Lincs (after April 2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
London, City of	Bishopsgate	-24	-3	-28	-13
London, City of	Snowhill	-32	-19	38	-20
Merseyside	Knowsley	-17	-55	-11	-18
Merseyside	North Liverpool	-28	-13	-36	-37
Merseyside	Sefton	-21	-9	-52	-43
Merseyside	South Liverpool	-27	-13	-58	-50
Merseyside	St. Helens	-30	-6	-45	-51
Merseyside	Wirral	-38	-37	-57	-48
Metropolitan Police	Barking and Dagenham	-2	17	10	2
Metropolitan Police	Barnet	-23	-1	-16	-7
Metropolitan Police	Bexley	-18	-3	11	-4
Metropolitan Police	Brent	-19	3	-6	-10
Metropolitan Police	Bromley	-13	15	13	1
Metropolitan Police	Camden	-37	3	-43	-41
Metropolitan Police	City of Westminster	-27	-15	6	-28
Metropolitan Police	Croydon	-15	-10	-25	-2
Metropolitan Police	Ealing	-18	7	-26	-15
Metropolitan Police	Enfield	-18	-32	7	-7
Metropolitan Police	Greenwich	-8	-2	55	20
Metropolitan Police	Hackney	-24	-5	-55	-43
Metropolitan Police	Hammersmith and Fulham	-24	12	-46	-26
Metropolitan Police	Haringey	-30	-3	-47	-13
Metropolitan Police	Harrow	-23	10	-11	-15
Metropolitan Police	Havering	-16	-24	-29	5
Metropolitan Police	Heathrow	-40	24	x	-72
Metropolitan Police	Hillingdon	-13	19	33	-12
Metropolitan Police	Hounslow	-28	-28	-27	-23
Metropolitan Police	Islington	-25	-10	-34	-32
Metropolitan Police	Kensington and Chelsea	-31	-10	-25	-26
Metropolitan Police	Kingston upon Thames	-21	-30	-10	15
Metropolitan Police	Lambeth	-35	-17	-46	-39
Metropolitan Police	Lewisham	10	35	-15	-21
Metropolitan Police	Merton	-15	8	-24	-2
Metropolitan Police	Newham	-19	-13	-21	-10
Metropolitan Police	Redbridge	-15	-10	-6	14
Metropolitan Police	Richmond upon Thames	-29	-27	-21	-11
Metropolitan Police	Southwark	-15	8	-14	-32
Metropolitan Police	Sutton	-8	-16	25	17
Metropolitan Police	Tower Hamlets	-33	-24	-40	-36
Metropolitan Police	Waltham Forest	-19	3	-17	-13
Metropolitan Police	Wandsworth	-31	-5	-35	-37
Norfolk	Norfolk Central	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Norfolk	Norfolk County	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Norfolk	Norfolk Eastern	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Norfolk	Norfolk Western	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Northamptonshire	Northampton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Northamptonshire	Northamptonshire Eastern	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Northamptonshire	Northamptonshire Northern	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Northamptonshire	Northamptonshire Western	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Northamptonshire	Northants North (after April 2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Northamptonshire	Northants West (after April 2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Northumbria	Gateshead	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Northumbria	Gateshead East	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Northumbria	Gateshead West	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Northumbria	Newcastle (after April 2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Table: Percentage change of recorded crime by BCU (basic command unit) between 2002-03 and 2008-09[1]

Police force	*BCU name*[2]	*Percentage difference* *Total recorded crime*	*Violence against person*	*Robbery*	*Burgla*
Northumbria	Newcastle Central	n/a	n/a	n/a	n
Northumbria	Newcastle East	n/a	n/a	n/a	n
Northumbria	Newcastle North	n/a	n/a	n/a	n
Northumbria	Newcastle West	n/a	n/a	n/a.	n/
Northumbria	North Northumberland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
Northumbria	North Tyneside (after April 2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
Northumbria	Northumberland (after April 2004)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
Northumbria	South-East Northumberland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
Northumbria	South Tyneside	-41	-27	-64	-5
Northumbria	South-West Northumberland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
Northumbria	Sunderland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
Northumbria	Sunderland City	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
Northumbria	Sunderland West	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
Northumbria	Tynemouth	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
Northumbria	Wallsend	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
Northumbria	Washington	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
North Wales	North Wales Central	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
North Wales	North Wales Eastern	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
North Wales	North Wales Western	-24	5	-57	-4
North Wales	N Wales Central (after April 2003)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
North Wales	N Wales Eastern (after April 2003)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
North Yorkshire	North Yorkshire Central	-29	7	-25	-4
North Yorkshire	North Yorkshire Eastern	-24	12	-34	-4
North Yorkshire	North Yorkshire Western	-29	-27	-40	-4
Nottinghamshire	Nottinghamshire Area A	-19	22	-15	-3
Nottinghamshire	Nottinghamshire Area B	-12	23	2	-3
Nottinghamshire	Nottinghamshire Area C	-36	14	-24	-5
Nottinghamshire	Nottinghamshire Area D	-34	22	1	-5
South Wales	Bridgend	-26	-3	18	-4
South Wales	Cardiff	-14	8	10	-27
South Wales	Merthyr Rhondda Cynon Taff	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Wales	Merthyr Tydfil	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Wales	Neath and Port Talbot	-24	-18	-14	-35
South Wales	Rhondda Cynon Taff	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Wales	Swansea	-26	4	-10	-21
South Wales	Vale of Glamorgan	-24	5	-21	-43
South Yorkshire	Barnsley	-21	35	-48	-61
South Yorkshire	Doncaster	-13	43	-45	-46
South Yorkshire	Rotherham	-12	44	-40	-51
South Yorkshire	Sheffield (after April 2008)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Yorkshire	Sheffield Central	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Yorkshire	Sheffield North	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Yorkshire	Sheffield South	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Staffordshire	Chase	-18	5	-21	-30
Staffordshire	North Staffordshire	-24	-6	-31	-39
Staffordshire	Stoke on Trent	-23	6	3	-34
Staffordshire	Trent Valley	-21	-11	-19	-37
Suffolk	Suffolk Eastern	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Suffolk	Suffolk Eastern (after April 2008)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Suffolk	Suffolk Southern	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Suffolk	Suffolk Western	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Suffolk	Suffolk Western (after April 2008)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Surrey	East Surrey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Surrey	North Surrey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Surrey	North-West Surrey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Surrey	Surrey East (after April 2008)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Surrey	Surrey North (after April 2008)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Surrey	Surrey West (after April 2008)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Surrey	West Surrey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sussex	Brighton and Hove	-16	12	-6	-36
Sussex	East Downs (before April 2003)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sussex	East Sussex	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Table: Percentage change of recorded crime by BCU (basic command unit) between 2002-03 and 2008-09[1]

		Percentage difference			
Police force	*BCU name*	*Total recorded crime*	*Violence against person*	*Robbery*	*Burglary*
Sussex	Forest	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sussex	Gatwick	-51	55	x	-4
Sussex	Hastings and Rother	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sussex	Highdown	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sussex	North Downs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sussex	Weald	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sussex	West Downs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sussex	Western	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thames Valley	Aylesbury Vale	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thames Valley	Berkshire East (after April 2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thames Valley	Berkshire West (after April 2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thames Valley	Buckinghamshire (after April 2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thames Valley	Chiltern Vale	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thames Valley	Milton Keynes	8	46	42	-12
Thames Valley	Northern Oxfordshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thames Valley	Oxford	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thames Valley	Oxfordshire (after April 2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thames Valley	Reading and Wokingham	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thames Valley	Slough and District	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thames Valley	Southern Oxfordshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thames Valley	Thames Forest	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thames Valley	West Berkshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Warwickshire	Warwickshire Northern	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Warwickshire	Warwickshire Police BCU	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Warwickshire	Warwickshire Southern	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Mercia	Hereford	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Mercia	Hereford (E Division)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Mercia	Kidderminster	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Mercia	North Worcestershire (D Division)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Mercia	Redditch	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Mercia	Shrewsbury	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Mercia	Shropshire (F Division)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Mercia	South Worcestershire (C Division)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Mercia	Telford	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Mercia	Telford and the Wrekin (G Division)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Mercia	Worcester	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	Solihull	-32	18	2	-39
West Midlands	West Midlands D1	-39	2	-32	-55
West Midlands	West Midlands D2	-39	18	-34	-54
West Midlands	West Midlands D3	-33	6	-22	-43
West Midlands	West Midlands E1	-29	-1	-20	-42
West Midlands	West Midlands E2	-37	-17	-26	-40
West Midlands	West Midlands E3	-30	-3	-33	-37
West Midlands	West Midlands F1	-39	-13	-41	-32
West Midlands	West Midlands F2	-35	-25	-33	-54
West Midlands	West Midlands F3	-29	11	-51	-47
West Midlands	West Midlands G1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	West Midlands G1 (after April 2007)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	West Midlands G2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	West Midlands G2 (after April 2007)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	West Midlands H1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	West Midlands H1 (after April 2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	West Midlands H2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	West Midlands H2 (after April 2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	West Midlands J1	-37	-28	-22	-48
West Midlands	West Midlands J2	-37	-33	6	-42
West Midlands	West Midlands K1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	West Midlands K1 (after April 2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	West Midlands K2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	West Midlands K2 (after April 2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	West Midlands M1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Table: Percentage change of recorded crime by BCU (basic command unit) between 2002-03 and 2008-09[1]

		Percentage difference			
Police force	*BCU name*[2]	*Total recorded crime*	*Violence against person*	*Robbery*	*Burglary*
West Midlands	West Midlands M1 (after April 2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	West Midlands M2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	West Midlands M2 (after April 2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	West Midlands M3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	West Midlands M3 (after April 2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	Airedale and North Bradford	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	Bradford North	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	Bradford South	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	Bradford South (after April 2008)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	Calderdale	-32	4	-50	-51
West Yorkshire	Chapeltown	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	City and Holbeck (after April 2008)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	Dewsbury	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	Holbeck	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	Huddersfield	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	Keighley	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	Killingbeck	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	Kirklees (after April 2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	Millgarth	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	North East Leeds (after April 2008)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	North West Leeds	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	Pudsey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	Wakefield	-30	22	-38	-51
West Yorkshire	Weetwood	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wiltshire	Chippenham (C)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wiltshire	Salisbury (A)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wiltshire	Swindon	-8	12	16	-17
Wiltshire	Wiltshire County	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available

[1] The information presented complies with the National Statistics Code of Practice for Data Access and Confidentiality. In order to protect confidentiality, all counts lower than three have been suppressed. Other counts may be suppressed to protect confidentiality. These are denoted by an "*" symbol in the cell.

[2] Please note that the BCU structure in some forces has changed across this period. The concerning cases are not comparable and labelled as "not available".

Crime: Victims

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of victims of crime were notified when the person charged with the crime against them was *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted in each year since 1997. [319780]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

Data on the number and proportion of victims of crime who were notified when the person charged with the crime against them was charged or convicted are not collected centrally.

However, the Witness and Victim Experience Survey (WAVES) interviews a national sample of victims (and prosecution witnesses) aged 18 and over, comprising just under 20,000 victims whose cases resulted in a criminal charge, in the following crime types: violence against the person, robbery, burglary, and theft and handling stolen goods. The survey excludes victims and witnesses of sexual offences, domestic violence, and cases involving a fatality on ethical grounds. Drug and motoring offences are also excluded.

WAVES data show that in 2008 (latest full year available), 91 per cent. of victims interviewed were notified that someone had been charged with the offence. WAVES does not fully distinguish between respondents who were informed of the case outcome, and those who found out the case outcome in another way.

Departmental Sick Leave

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 32W, on departmental sick leave, what the average number of annual working days lost per employee through sick leave was in each of the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of such leave. [313439]

Alan Johnson: The average working days lost per staff per staff year in the Home Office (including its executive agencies) is shown in Table 1. The total cost of this absence is estimated to be about £24 million (out of a total wage bill for the Home Office of £997 million).

Home Office RYAWDL[1]

	Number
January 2009	9.63
February 2009	9.32
March 2009	9.34
April 2009	9.25
May 2009	9.17
June 2009	9.10
July 2009	9.16
August 2009	9.26
September 2009	9.25
October 2009	9.[illegible]3
November 2009	9.10
December 2009	8.98

[1] This figure includes Home Office HQ, United Kingdom Border Agency, identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau.

Domestic Violence: Immigrants

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects his Department's scheme to grant women victims of domestic violence indefinite leave to remain in order to receive support to commence; and how much funding will be allocated to the scheme in its first year of operation. [318927]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Since 1999, victims of domestic violence who entered the UK on a spouse or partner visa have been able to apply for indefinite leave to remain (ILR) in the UK under the domestic violence rule.

Since 30 November 2009, the Home Office has been running a pilot to support victims of domestic violence while their applications for ILR under the domestic violence rule are processed.

The costs of the pilot relate directly to the number of victims, and their children, who apply and are accepted under set criteria, therefore, we will not know the total cost until completion of the pilot.

Drug Seizures

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what quantity and street value of class *(a)* A, *(b)* B and *(c)* C drugs was seized (i) in each police force area, (ii) at all major UK entry points and (iii) in England and Wales in each year since 1998. [317607]

Alan Johnson: Information on the quantities of selected class A, B and C drugs are published in supplementary table A5 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, "Drug seizures". Copies of this and earlier editions of the bulletin are available in the Library of the House.

The data covers seizures by all police forces as well as seizures in England and Wales at major entry points by the UK Border Agency (the statistics for 2004, 2005 and 2006-07 were provided by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. Data on seizure quantities for other drugs are not available as it is not possible to accurately calculate conversion factors (based on drug purities) for less commonly seized drugs.

Data on the street value of drugs are not collected by the Home Office, however information on the street value of drugs has been provided by the Serious Organised Crime agency (SOCA). The information covers UK wide prices.

Fixed Penalty Procedures Working Group

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to Lord Tebbit of 2 February 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA16, on cycling, on how many occasions the Fixed Penalty Procedures Working Group has met in the last 12 months; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* minutes and *(b)* papers of each meeting held in the last 12 months. [319641]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Fixed Penalty Procedures Working Group has met once in the last 12 months. The minutes of that meeting will be formally approved at its next meeting on 23 April, and I shall place a copy in the Library at that time.

National Security: Electromagnetic Fields

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent assessment has been made on the vulnerability of critical infrastructure to an electromagnetic pulse caused *(a)* deliberately and *(b)* through solar activity; [319896]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the feasibility of strengthening civilian systems against electromagnetic pulse attacks; and what estimate he has made of the cost of undertaking such work. [319948]

Mr. Hanson: The Government's Cyber Security Strategy of the United Kingdom, published alongside and reflected in the National Security Strategy update of June 2009, considers a number of methods of cyber attack, including those that generate high levels of power that can damage or disrupt unprotected electronics. It also outlines the new governance structures and workstreams which are now building on existing work to take forward the Government's plan for reducing the impact on and vulnerability of the UK's interests from cyber attacks.

The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) provides advice on electronic or cyber protective security measures to the businesses and organisations that comprise the UK's critical national infrastructure, including public utilities, companies and banks. CPNI also runs a CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team) service which responds to reported attacks on private sector networks. In addition, CESG provides Government departments with advice and guidance on how to protect against, detect and mitigate various types of cyber attack.

It would not be in the interests of national security to provide information about specific vulnerabilities, assessments or protective measures relating to electromagnetic pulse attack.

Police Cautions

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police cautions were given for *(a)* violent offences, *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* robbery, *(d)* burglary, *(e)* theft, *(f)* fraud and forgery, *(g)* criminal damage and *(h)* drugs offences in each of the last three years; and what proportion of such cases were first offences. [319701]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 2 March 2010]*: The latest Information on the number of persons cautioned, broken down as requested is published in table 3.1 of the Ministry of Justice Statistical Bulletin 'Criminal Statistics, England and Wales 2008'.

Copies are available in the Library of the House, however the table is provided for the Member's convenience.

Additionally, data provided by the Ministry of Justice on the proportion of cautions, reprimands or warnings given to offenders with no previous caution or conviction from 2006 to 2008 are provided in table B.

The figures in table B have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

PNC data has been used for this table rather than data collection that forms the source of the published caution statistics, as the PNC provides information on the criminal history of offenders. As a result of the above, the two datasets are not directly comparable.

Table 3.1: Offenders' cautioned by sex and type of offence, 1998-2008: England and Wales

Number of offenders (thousand)

Sex and type of offence	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Males[1]											
Indictable offences											
Violence against the person	18.4	16.6	15.5	15.2	17.9	21.5	27.5	38.1	43.8	39.6	28.4
Sexual offences	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.9	4.6
Burglary	7.5	6.8	5.8	5.7	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.6	6.8	6.2	4.8
Robbery	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.3
Theft and handling stolen goods	51.4	46.4	40.0	36.6	30.7	30.7	34.2	38.0	42.0	41.8	37.7
Fraud and forgery	4.7	4.6	3.8	3.6	3.3	3.5	3.7	4.4	5.2	5.6	5.6
Criminal damage	2.4	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.6	3.1	4.6	6.0	7.5	7.4	6.5
Drug offences	52.3	43.5	36.4	34.9	39.8	40.2	28.5	30.1	32.5	37.6	41.0
Other (excluding motoring offences)	4.2	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.6	4.2	4.7	5.5	7.3	7.8	6.8
Total (excluding motoring offences)[2]	142.9	126.1	109.7	103.8	104.4	109.8	110.0	129.9	147.6	148.5	132.8
Summary offences (excluding motoring offences)	76.9	76.1	69.6	63.8	70.9	76.0	87.6	112.0	120.2	112.2	
All offences[2] (excluding motoring offences)	219.8	202.3	179.3	171.8	168.2	186.0	217.5	259.6	120.2	112.2	245.0
Females											
Indictable offences											
Violence against the person	5.1	4.7	4.4	4.4	5.7	7.2	9.1	13.0	13.4	12.7	9.2
Sexual offences	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Burglary	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.6
Robbery	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Theft and handling stolen goods	32.2	29.1	27.6	26.9	23.5	23.8	27.8	29.6	30.3	31.0	26.1
Fraud and forgery	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.3	2.5	2.8	3.0	2.7
Criminal damage	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.2
Drug offences	6.4	5.8	4.7	4.5	5.1	5.5	4.1	4.3	4.9	5.4	5.9
Other (excluding motoring offences)	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.3	1.4	2.1	2.1	1.7
Total (excluding motoring offences)[2]	48.8	44.5	41.2	40.1	38.5	41.0	46.3	53.0	56.2	56.6	47.6

Table 3.1: Offenders[1] cautioned by sex and type of offence, 1998-2008, England and Wales

Number of offenders (thousand)

Sex and type of offence	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Summary offences (excluding motoring offences)	19.2	19.4	18.5	18.0	18.6	20.2	23.5	28.5	34.2	37.6	34.3
All offences[2] (excluding motoring offences)	68.1	63.9	59.7	58.1	57.2	61.2	69.8	81.4	90.3	94.2	81.9
All offenders											
Indictable offences											
Violence against the person	23.5	21.2	19.9	19.6	23.6	28.8	36.6	[illegible]1.0	57.3	52.3	37.6
Sexual offences	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.7
Burglary	8.4	7.7	6.6	6.4	5.8	5.6	5.6	6.5	7.7	7.0	5.4
Robbery	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.4
Theft and handling stolen goods	83.6	75.4	67.6	63.5	54.2	54.5	61.9	67.6	72.4	72.8	63.8
Fraud and forgery	7.4	7.2	6.2	5.8	5.3	5.5	6.0	6.9	8.0	8.6	8.2
Criminal damage	2.7	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.1	3.7	5.5	7.2	9.0	8.8	7.7
Drug offences	58.7	49.4	41.1	39.4	44.9	45.7	32.6	34.4	37.4	43.1	46.9
Other (excluding motoring offences)	5.0	4.6	4.4	4.1	4.4	5.3	6.0	6.9	9.4	10.0	8.6
Total (excluding motoring offences)[2]	191.7	170.6	150.9	143.9	142.9	150.7	156.3	182.9	203.8	205.1	180.3
Summary offences (excluding motoring offences)	96.2	95.6	88.1	85.9	82.4	91.1	99.5	116.0	146.2	157.8	146.6
All offences[2] (excluding motoring offences)	287.9	266.1	239.0	229.9	225.4	241.8	255.8	298.9	350.0	362.9	326.9

[1] Other offenders i.e. companies, public bodies, etc. are included with males.

[2] May not sum due to rounding.

Table B: Proportion of cautions, reprimands or warnings given to offenders with no previous caution or conviction recorded on the Police National Computer, England and Wales, 2006-08

Percentage

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Violence against the person	61	58	58
Sexual offences	68	68	71
Burglary	62	59	56
Robbery	73	70	69
Theft and handling stolen goods	72	70	66
Fraud and forgery	65	65	63
Criminal damage	63	60	58
Drug offences	44	43	42
Other indictable offences	63	59	58

Table B. Proportion of cautions, reprimands or warnings given to offenders with no previous caption or conviction recorded on the Police National Computer, England and Wales, 2006-08

Percentage

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
All indictable	62	60	57
Summary offences	61	58	55
All offences	62	59	56

Police: Sick Leave

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers are on sickness absence due to *(a)* back-related injuries and *(b)* stress. [320248]

Mr. Hanson: This information is not collected centrally.

Reparation by Offenders

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress has been made on the recruitment of local justice champions in Justice Seen, Justice Done areas. [319575]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There are 60 Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Pioneer Areas. Each has appointed a Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Co-ordinator. Areas also receive funding to appoint a victims champion. The vast majority of appointments have been made with a named contact in place in every area.

Vetting

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 90W, on independent safeguarding authority, what proportion of the population has been subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check. [318318]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) cannot determine what proportion of the population has been subject to a CRB check as the Bureau only provides this service to employers based in England and Wales. The following table shows the number of CRB certificates issued in each financial year since its inception in 2002:

Financial year	*Total certificates issued*
2002-03	1,437,994
2003-04	2,284,688
2004-05	2,430,937
2005-06	2,770,265
2006-07	3,277,957
2007-08	3,323,251
2008-09	3,855,881
2009-10	3,215,409

The CRB cannot determine how many applicants these certificates relate to as applicants can apply more than once for a check in any one period. These figures are calculated by financial year and information for 2009-10 contains the figures up to December 2009. The full financial year's figure will not be available until after March 2010.

Violent and Sex Offender Register

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for removal from the sex offender register of a person convicted of consensual homosexual activity have been *(a)* received and *(b)* approved in each year since 2004. [319991]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 2 March 2010]*: This answer can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Advertising

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Departm and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and executive agency for which his Department is responsi spent on advertising in each year since 2005. [3197

Mr. Sutcliffe: The available information regardi expenditure on advertising by the Department and agency, the Royal Parks, is set out in the table. In respe of the Department, it shows spend on recruitme advertising: other advertising spend is not separate analysed on the Department's accounting system an can be collated only at disproportionate cost.

The Department does not centrally maintain recor on advertising spend in respect of its non-departmenta bodies. It would incur disproportionate cost to obtai and collate this information.

Financial year	*DCMS spend (£)*	*The Royal Par spend (*
2009-10 to January 2010	18,800	86,41
2008-09	17,940	47,01
2007-08	36,150	34,83
2006-07	38,390	15,63
2005-06	105,450	14,65

Departmental Computers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 12 January 2010, *Officia Report*, column 861W, on departmental computers, for what reason websites featuring tobacco content are banned; if he will give examples of the types of tobacco sites which are banned; and whether the internet ban includes the Forest (Freedom Organisation for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco) website. [318315]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The filtering software used by my Department has a standard range of categories that are blocked by default. Filtering is switched off for those categories that are directly related to the work of my Department, currently tobacco remains blocked. The tobacco category covers tobacco promotional websites such as

www.marlboro.com

The Forest (Freedom Organisation for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco) website was inadvertently covered by this category by default. It has been unblocked.

Departmental Consultants

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much (a) his Department and (b) each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible spent on external consultants and advisers in each year since 2005. [319765]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The expenditure on external consultants and advisers by the Department and its agency, the Royal Parks, is set out in the table.

The Department does not centrally maintain records on consultancy spend in respect of its non-departmental public bodies. To collate this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Financial year	*DCMS spend (£000)*	*The Royal Parks spend (£000)*
2009-10 to January 2010	712	329
2008-09	1,220	111
2007-08	1,163	883
2006-07	886	834
2005-06	1,161	574

Departmental Energy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department plans to take to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. [319090]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department will support the Earth Hour event on Saturday 27 March 2010 by switching off all office lights for one hour at 8.30 pm.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many thefts from his Department have been recorded in the last two years. [319083]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No thefts have been recorded in the last two years at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Gaming Machines

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether a small firms impact assessment has been prepared in relation to proposals to reclassify skills with prize machines as gaming machines. [319904]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government have no current plans to reclassify skill with prizes machines as gaming machines.

The Gambling Act 2005 sets out the tests to be applied when determining whether or not a machine is a gaming machine. A full regulatory impact assessment accompanied the Bill.

Local Government: Statistics

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 341W, on local government finance, under how many indicators performance data are collected from local authorities in respect of *(a)* free swimming initiatives and *(b)* licensing. [319794]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not collect "indicator" data from local authorities on free swimming or licensing and neither source is used for the national indicators set. Local authorities that have signed up to the free swimming initiative are responsible for submitting quarterly basic throughput data on the number of free swims that have taken place in their area each month.

For alcohol, entertainment and late night refreshment licensing the main purpose of this collection is to collect basic statistics about the operation of licensing. This provides a national picture and helps licensing authorities benchmark their position.

All data collected are published on the DCMS website, where further details can be found, including all the data we ask local authorities to provide for these two collections.

National Lottery: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much revenue from the Dream Number Lottery game had been raised for the purposes of the London 2012 Olympics on the latest date for which figures are available. [318934]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As at 31 December 2009, designated Olympic Lottery games (including Dream Number) have raised more than £450 million towards the cost of staging the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic games.

Returns to good causes from the sale of all National Lottery products are calculated in accordance with a formula set out in the National Lottery Licence. Proceeds to the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund (OLDF) are based on the proportion of total sales attributable to all designated Olympic Lottery games. These include the Dream Number draw, certain Scratchcards and online instant win games. Proceeds to the OLDF are not available on a game-by-game basis.

We remain on course to meet the £750 million target towards the cost of staging the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games from dedicated National Lottery games.

Olympic Games: Canada

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department attended the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. [318780]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 25 February 2010]*: In my capacity as Minister for Sport I attended the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver and was accompanied by my Private Secretary. The Minister for the Olympics also attended the games with her Private Secretary, a press officer and a special adviser.

In addition, four members of the Government Olympic Executive also attended the games and it is planned that a further four officials will attend the Paralympics. They are participating in the observer programmes which run throughout the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Attendance at the Games provided an invaluable opportunity to study at first-hand Vancouver's experience in staging an Olympic Games and to learn lessons for London 2012.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on travel for *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers to the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics. [318968]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 1 March 2010]*: Details of ministerial travel costing over £500 are published annually and include the cost, destination and purpose of the trip. It also provides information on the number of officials who accompany Ministers.

The most recent list was published in July 2009 and the details of attendance at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games will be included in the 2010 return.

Olympic Lottery

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was raised for the London 2012 Olympics by *(a)* national lottery games dedicated to the London 2012 Olympics and *(b)* the Dream Number lottery game in 2007-08. [319574]

Mr. Sutcliffe: National Lottery Games dedicated to raising money for the London 2012 Olympics provided a total of £147 million for the financial year 2007-08.

Returns to good causes from the sale of all National Lottery products are calculated in accordance with a formula set out in the National Lottery Licence. Proceeds to the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund (OLDF) are based on the proportion of total sales attributable to all designated Olympic Lottery games. These include the Dream Number draw, certain Scratchcards and online instant win games. Proceeds to the OLDF are not available on a game-by-game basis.

We remain on course to meet the £750 million target towards the cost of staging the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games from dedicated National Lottery games.

Public Houses: Closures

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps his Department has taken to assist public houses facing closure. [319608]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) continues to be the lead voice in Whitehall on the importance to the economy of the whole hospitality industry, including public houses, and for licensing policy. In particular, the Licensing Act 2003 and subsequent simplifications of its processes have produced savings in administrative burdens of about £99 million annually since the Act came into force in November 2005.

The Prime Minister has recently appointed my right hon. Friend, the Minister for Housing and Planning to head a task force of five Ministers to champion public houses in their role as the hubs of their communities. The Department for Communities and Local Government is co-ordinating relevant work with the DCMS, The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, HM Treasury and the Cabinet Office.

Sports: Health Services

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether responsibility for providing free emergency health cover and hospital accommodation and treatment for *(a)* participants and *(b)* spectators at major international sporting events resides with the host country; if he will clarify the position in relation to (i) participants and visitors to the UK attending the London 2012 Olympic Gam
and (ii) UK residents who attend, as participants an
as visitors, the Isle of Man TT Races; and if he wi
make a statement. [31845

Mr. Sutcliffe: UK Sport has advised that for th
majority of events supported by UK Sport through it
World Class Events programme, athletes are require
by their international federations to have their ow
insurance to allow them to compete. Internationa
federations will usually incorporate medical cove
requirements in the event contract agreements wit
which host organisers must comply.

The event organisers are liable for public liabilit
insurance cover in case of any accident/injury as a resul
of the event set up, as opposed to simply injury/accident
as a result of participants competing.

Visitors to events are always covered in terms o
emergency first aid as a matter of best practice. This would be free of charge, but organisers of events would not be liable to cover any required hospital treatment.

With regards to participants and visitors to the UK for the Olympic Games in 2012, it was a requirement of the bid that NHS treatment for the Games Family (including participants, IOC and IPC members, technical officials etc.) would be free. The Department of Health is working to fulfil the bid commitment.

For participants, the larger Olympic and Paralympic teams will bring their own specialist medical teams and will provide any medical care required. The vast majority of medical services will be delivered by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games—LOCOG—in the polyclinic in the Olympic Park and in on-site facilities in other Games' venues. LOCOG is working directly with Hospital Trusts to specify the services and facilities needed in the rare event that a participant is admitted to hospital.

For spectators, business as usual arrangements will apply in line with current legislation—treatment given in an NHS accident and emergency department is free to all persons, but treatment after admission as an in-patient will incur a charge unless the person is entitled to it for free.

Finally, with regards to the TT races on the Isle of Man, the reciprocal healthcare agreement between the UK and the Isle of Man is still in effect, but terminates on 31 March 2010. Therefore all competitors must be insured against the risk of personal accident in accordance with the FIM Sporting Code.

The Isle of Man Health Service is not part of the UK NHS and, except for immediately necessary and emergency treatment which does not require admission to hospital, visitors to the Isle of Man (including UK residents) who require treatment will be expected to pay for it.

It is therefore strongly recommended that all visitors to the Isle of Man ensure that they have appropriate insurance in place which will cover any treatment costs and repatriation to the UK by air ambulance if that should prove necessary.

Swimming: Concessions

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on the free swimming initiative in each quarter of 2009 for which figures are available. [318911]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 February 2010]:* The funding structure of the programme, with grants going to local authorities covering each financial year, means that quarterly spend figures for the Department are not available.

The Free Swimming Programme (FSP) is a £140 million package comprising contributions from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Department of Health, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Communities and Local Government. This is broken down into £10 million (capital funding) in 2008-09 and £65 million (a mixture of capital and resource) in each year for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many designs for its website his Department and its predecessors have commissioned since 2005. [318657]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department's main website homepage:

www.dcsf.gov.uk

and standard web page template have undergone four redesigns since 2005, as a result of changes to the Department's name and brand.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what expenditure his Department incurred on hospitality extended by Ministers in the financial year *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08 in current prices. [318829]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 494W.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many receptions he has hosted for representatives of print and broadcast media since October 2008; how much each reception cost; and how many people attended each. [318830]

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many receptions he has hosted for representatives of print and broadcast media since 2008; how much each reception cost; and how many people attended each. [319350]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: I refer the hon. Members to the written ministerial statements made by my right hon. Friend Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 84WS, and 13 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 15WS.

Information for the current financial year will be published later in the year.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on ministerial hospitality in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08, expressed in current prices. [319349]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 494W.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many receptions he plans to host in 2010 for representatives of print and broadcast media. [319351]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: There are no such receptions planned at this time.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of his Department's annual budget is allocated to preventative and early intervention measures. [318841]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 26 February 2010]:* Preventative and early intervention measures are an integral part of many of the Department's programmes and policies. However, these aspects of the Department's business are not always identified as specific allocated budgets within the remit of larger programmes and policy initiatives. It would not be possible to accurately identify the annual amount of spend on preventative and early intervention measures without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Relations

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) with which public relations companies *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible and *(c)* other bodies sponsored by his Department have had contracts in each year since 2004; [317067]

(2) how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in 2009. [316837]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Public relations agencies are employed for specific communications tasks, most commonly working alongside our press office to provide campaign support in local, regional and specialist media. The Department's expenditure on public relations for complete financial years, since its formation in June 2007, is outlined in the following table.

	Total spend (£)
2007-08	2,333,000
2008-09	4,023,403

The other requested information cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many thefts from his Department have been recorded in the last two years. [318985]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The number of items reported stolen from the Department for Children, Schools and Families in the last two years is given in the following table.

Item stolen	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Laptops	4	4
BlackBerry/mobile	5	5
Projector	1	
Spider phone	1	
Staff passes	17	18
Total	28	27

Education: International Cooperation

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the average duration is of a Teachers' International Professional Development Programme visit; [318230]

(2) how many teachers and teaching assistants participated in Teachers' International Professional Development Programme visits to each county in each year since 2000. [318233]

Mr. Coaker: Study visits taking place under the Teachers International Professional Development (TIPD) programme take place during half-term and other holiday periods. The majority of study visits last for five days, but for long-haul destinations the study visit may be extended to a maximum of 10 days.

There are three strands to the TIPD programme: local authority led study visits on a theme decided by the relevant local authority; school determined visits to examine a theme of study decided by the schools engaged; and a programme of study visits to developing countries jointly funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for International Development. The number of teachers taking part in study visits by country under each of these three strands is contained in tables, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of each *(a)* audit and *(b)* evaluation of the Teachers' International Professional Development programme undertaken or commissioned by his Department to date; [318231]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness in promoting best practice in schools in England of the Teachers' International Professional Development programme. [318232]

Mr. Coaker: The Department commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to conduct reviews of the Teachers International Professional Development (TIPD) programme, and evaluation reports were issued in 2002, 2003 and 2005. A further internal review of the TIPD programme reported in December 2006. Copies of these reports have been placed in the Library.

In 2009, the Department and the Department for International Development (DFID) commissioned a review of a range of international programmes funded by the two Departments. The review concluded that whilst the TIPD programme provided valuable professional development opportunities, efficiencies and improved outcomes could be achieved through streamlining the design and delivery of programmes. A formal public consultation on recommendations flowing from this review is planned for the near future.

Home Education

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of school attendance orders in supporting families with home-educated children. [318521]

Mr. Coaker: It is the parents' duty to ensure that their child receives a suitable full-time education at school or otherwise (including home elective education).

If a local authority has concerns that a child is not receiving a suitable, full-time education it has the power to take steps under the school attendance order framework, including serving a school attendance order on the child's parents instructing them to register their child at a named school. Failure to comply with an order is an offence. Local authorities have the responsibility for prosecuting parents if they breach a school attendance order and also have the option of seeking an education supervision order. We believe that this achieves a balance between the rights of parents to educate their children outside the school system, many of whom do a good job, and the rights of the child to a full-time education suitable to their needs and abilities.

Primary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 29 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 596W, on primary education, how many schools in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area there were in each category in each year. [318587]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 25 February 2010]*: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Number of maintained primary schools with over 800 pupils[1] 1997 and 2009 England

	Number of schools
1997	
England	11
North West	3
Lancashire	1
Wirral	2
West Midlands	1
Dudley	1

Number of maintained primary schools with over 800 pupils[1] 1997 and 2009—England

	Number of schools
London	7
Outer London	7
Enfield	1
Newham	6
2009	
England	16
North West	1
Sefton	1
West Midlands	1
Birmingham	1
London	13
Inner London	1
Lambeth	1
Outer London	12
Barking and Dagenham	1
Bromley	1
Enfield	2
Hillingdon	1
Newham	4
Redbridge	2
Waltham Forest	1
South East	1
East Sussex	1

[1] Headcount of sole registered pupils.

Source:

School Census

Pupils: Bullying

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1093W, on pupils: bullying, what steps his Department has taken to tackle bullying in schools in the last 12 months. [318384]

Mr. Coaker: Over the last 12 months, we have continued to roll out a comprehensive programme of work to prevent and tackle bullying. This includes working through the Anti-Bullying Alliance and the National Strategies to help schools deal with bullying effectively and providing challenge and support, where necessary, to improve anti-bullying strategies.

It also includes funding for peer mentoring of pupils and a helpline for parents. We have strengthened further our anti-bullying guidance. In April 2009 we published new guidance on preventing and tackling the cyberbullying of school staff. In September we produced a DVD resource pack for schools on bullying related to special educational needs or disabilities. In December 2009 we issued new guidance for schools on preventing and responding to sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying. In February this year we produced, in collaboration with Stonewall, a DVD resource pack on tackling homophobic bullying.

In November 2009 the Anti-Bullying Alliance delivered our annual anti-bullying week for which the theme was cyberbullying. During that week we launched a short web-based leaflet for parents on bullying from a young person's perspective and re-ran our cyberbullying campaign, 'laugh at it and you're part of it'. In December, 2009 we published a consultation document on the new duty on schools (due to come into force this September) to record and report all serious and persistent incidents of bullying.

Schools: Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department (*a*) has taken recently and (*b*) plans to take to reduce levels of anti-Semitism in schools; what recent discussions Ministers and officials in his Department have had on this issue; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [318693]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him on 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1001-1002W. Further to that, the Department is currently consulting on a new statutory duty on schools to record and report to the local authority all incidents of bullying between pupils including racist bullying. The consultation will end on 4 March 2010 and plans are for the new duty to come into effect in September 2010. We have also provided additional funding to the School Linking Network to promote inter-faith linking by supporting faith schools, from both the independent and maintained sectors, to work in partnership to provide opportunities for their pupils to mix and interact, in order to promote community cohesion. My officials regularly attend the Anti-Semitism Working Group along with officials from other Government Departments and stakeholders from across the Jewish communities to monitor progress and discuss issues in relation to tackling anti-Semitism.

Schools: Flooding

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for how many days schools in each region were closed owing to flooding in each of the last five years. [318660]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Schools and local authorities are under no duty to report closures to my Department, so the Department does not maintain any regular records of closures. We do have information on the floods in mid 2007, and that information is shown in the following table. The figures include closures due to storm damage as well as flooding. Most schools closed for one to two days only, but we do not have a record of how many days each school was closed.

The only significant flood disruption to schools in 2009 was in Cumbria in November, when we understand that most schools closed for at least one day, but we have no record of the number of schools.

School closures due to mid 2007 severe weather reported to DCSF

	Number of schools
Yorkshire and Humber	386
South East	126
East Midlands	75
West Midlands	35
South West	6

School closures due to mid 2007 severe weather reported to DCSF

	Number of schools
London	2

Note:

The figures represent school closures reported in June and July 2007, and some delayed openings in September 2007. As information is only held at local authority level, without school names, there may be a small amount of duplication, but involving fewer than 10 schools.

Schools: Police

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on how many occasions police were called to schools in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* the latest year for which figures are available; and for what reason in each such case. [317821]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Data on the number of occasions police are called to schools are not collected at a national level.

Schools: Transport

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much and what proportion of the Walking to School initiative's budget was spent in the latest year for which figures are available. [316168]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The last year for which figures are available is 2009-10 during which we have spent £19.95 million, which represents 95.4 per cent. of the available budget. Of this, £14.11 million was allocated as grants to schools and they have three years in which to spend the funding. The remaining £5.84 million expenditure represents salary costs for approximately 250 school travel advisers and seven regional school travel advisers.

Specialist Schools

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families by what mechanisms a school may apply for specialist school status in relation to catering and hospitality education. [319343]

Mr. Coaker: Schools can specialise in a range of curriculum based subjects but it is not possible for a school to specialise in catering and hospitality within the specialist schools programme. Academies have access to a greater range of specialisms which must be rigorous and linked to an academic subject. It would therefore be possible for an Academy to offer a specialism in catering and hospitality if this was linked to an academic subject.

Sports: Primary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils *(a)* overall, *(b)* in years 10 and 11, *(c)* at primary school received the recommended number of hours of sport each week in the latest period for which figures are available. [315691]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The 2008/09 PE and Sport survey showed that 50 per cent. of school pupils were taking part in at least three hours of high quality PE and sport per week as part of the five hour offer for children and young people. For Years 10 and 11 the figures were 42 per cent. and 37 per cent. respectively. For primary pupils the figure was 57 per cent. We are working with the Youth Sport Trust and Sport England, and through them with School Sport Partnerships and County Sport Partnerships, to ensure that plans are in place to deliver a five hour offer which is taken up by every young person who wants it. At present we judge this to be the case in 92 per cent. of SSPs. As part of this we believe every young person should have access to regular competitive sport; coaching to improve their skills and enjoyment; a choice of different sports; pathways to club and elite sport; and opportunities to lead and volunteer in sport. We are also developing new ways of communicating the offer so that more young people take it up.

Truancy: Prosecutions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many cases associated with parents not ensuring their child attended school have been heard in court since 1997. [318229]

Mr. Coaker: Information from the Ministry of Justice court proceedings database on the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to failing to attend school in England, 2001 to 2008 can be viewed in the attached table. Prior to 2001 these offences cannot be separately identified.

These data are a further breakdown of those published in the Criminal Statistics, Supplementary Volumes for England and Wales for the years 2001-08.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts at all courts for offences relating to 'failing to attend school'[1] [2]

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Proceeded against	1,961	3,163	3,849	4,442	4,648	5,999	7,745	9,506

[1] Includes the following:

(i) Failure to secure regular attendance at school. (Education Act 1996 S.444 (1)(8)).

(ii) Parent knows that their child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school. (Education Act 1996 S.444(8)(1a)(8a) added by Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 S.72).

[2] Prior to 2001 these offences cannot be separately identified.

Notes:

1. The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

The increase in the number of cases over this period reflects a sustained drive, led by the Government, to improve levels of school attendance including by encouraging local authorities to make more use of their powers to proceed against parents who are failing in their legal responsibility to ensure their children receive a full time education. The outcome has been a significant improvement in school attendance, with on average 71,800 more children attending school each day in 2007-08 than did in 2000-01.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many prosecutions for offences related to parents not ensuring their child attended school have resulted in conviction since 1997; and what the average fine imposed in respect of such convictions has been. [[illegible]18241]

Mr. Coaker: Information from the Ministry of Justice court proceedings database on the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to failing to attend school in England, 2001 to 2008 can be viewed in the following table. Prior to 2001 these offences cannot be separately identified.

These data are a further breakdown of those published in the Criminal Statistics, Supplementary Volumes for England and Wales for the years 2001 to 2008.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts and average fine imposed for offences relating to 'failing to attend school'[1] [2]

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Proceeded against	1,961	3,163	3,849	4,442	4,648	5,999	7,745	9,506
Found guilty	1,595	2,572	3,065	3,549	3,740	4,720	6,035	7,291

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts and average fine imposed for offences relating to 'failing to attend school'[1] [2]

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Average fine imposed (£)	98.7	108.3	111.0	112.4	119.2	123.5	127.3	144.3

[1] Includes the following:

(i) Failure to secure regular attendance at school. (Education Act 1996 S.444 (1)(8)).

(ii) Parent knows that their child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school. (Education Act 1996 S.444(8)(1a)(8a) added by Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 S.72).

[2] Prior to 2001 these offences cannot be separately identified.

Notes:

1. The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

(Ref. IOS 85-10)

The increase in the number of cases over this period reflects a sustained drive, led by the Government, to improve levels of school attendance including by encouraging local authorities to make more use of their powers to proceed against parents who are failing in their legal responsibility to ensure their children receive a full-time education. The outcome has been a significant improvement in school attendance, with on average 71,800 more children attending school each day in 2007/08 than did in 2000/01.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 4 March 2010

WALES

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether he has made an estimate of the number of *(a)* emails and *(b)* letters from members of the public to which his Department has responded since May 2007. [318933]

Mr. Hain: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Energy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps his Department plans to take to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. [319103]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office obtains its corporate and estates services from the Ministry of Justice and falls within its sustainability targets and strategic programmes.

However, the Wales Office is very much entering into the spirit of the Earth Hour event (and the other Government estate sustainability targets) and doing what we ourselves can to reduce our carbon emissions.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what information technology projects initiated by his Department were cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [320436]

Mr. David: The Wales Office is provided with its information technology services by the Ministry of Justice, and consequently does not initiate projects.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many designs for its website his Department has commissioned since 2005. [318640]

Mr. David: The Wales Office commissioned one redesign of its website as part of general improvements and modernisation of the website in 2007.

Departmental Paper

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* brands of (i) paper and (ii) paper products his Department uses; and what his Department's policy is on the procurement of those materials. [320024]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office procures the majority of its paper from Banner, under a contract secured through the Ministry of Justice, and this paper is 80g/m2. The paper used in our publications has been at least 75 per cent. recycled.

The Ministry of Justice is working with Banner to procure a paper that is 100 per cent. recycled, which the Wales Office will use.

Media and Communications Team: Manpower

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff are employed in his Department's media and communications team; and how many were employed in 2009. [319584]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office's Press Office consists of three full-time members of staff.

PRIME MINISTER

Building Resilience

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Prime Minister if he will place in the Library a copy of the paper prepared for the Government in 2001 by Dr. Jamie MacIntosh and Mike Granatt CB, entitled, Building Resilience. [319930]

The Prime Minister: The findings informed the Government's response to Sir Iain Anderson's review into the lessons of the 2001 foot and mouth outbreak which was published and placed in the Libraries of the House.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [320414]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not provided coaching in foreign languages to Ministers or civil servants in the Department within the last 12 months.

Departmental Paper

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* brands of (i) paper and (ii) paper products his Department uses; and what his Department's policy is on the procurement of those materials. [320032]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department buys its paper through an outsourced stationery supplier, Office Depot, and its paper products through its Facilities Management provider Carillion. For paper the Department uses Evolve, which is 100 per cent. recycled; and for paper products it uses Kimberley-Clark and SCA Hygiene products.

The Department's procurement policy requires it to use products that are sustainable and which meet current public sector requirements, as specified by the Office of Government Commerce.

Departmental Public Relations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which public relations companies have had contracts with *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its (i) non-departmental public bodies and (ii) executive agencies since 2004. [319809]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture Media and Sport has had contracts with Harrison Cowley and Edelman public relations companies since 2004. Our executive agency, The Royal Parks, has had contracts with six companies: Bellenden, Brunswick, Cavendish, Chelgate, Colman Getty and London Communities Agency (LCA).

The Department does not centrally maintain records on public relations companies in respect of its non-departmental bodies. It would incur disproportionate cost to obtain and collate this information.

Digital Broadcasting: Northern Ireland

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has had discussions with the Government of the Republic of Ireland on plans for the digitisation of radio. [319475]

Mr. Bradshaw: No discussions have taken place with the Government of the Republic of Ireland regarding switchover to digital radio.

National Lottery: Sports

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of athletes supported through lottery funding distributed by UK Sport attended fee-paying schools. [320009]

Mr. Sutcliffe: UK Sport has advised that as part of their 2009 Athlete Insights survey, all athletes on their World Class Programme were asked for details of their school careers. Of the 75 per cent. that responded to the survey, 22 per cent. stated that they were either at, or had attended an independent school at some point during their education.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the extent of corruption in the Afghan Government; and what steps his Department is taking to seek to reduce levels of such corruption. [318929]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Corruption is endemic throughout society and state. Pervasive corruption within the Government and the security forces undermines the legitimacy of the Government and corrodes consent. Nearly one-fifth of the Afghan population believe corruption is the country's biggest problem and Afghanistan ranks second to last on Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index. President Karzai made a commitment to tackling corruption in his inauguration speech and again at the London Conference. We expect him to demonstrate this commitment by creating independent institutions that can prevent, detect and take action against corrupt practices in government.

The UK is a key partner for the Government of Afghanistan on tackling corruption across a range of areas, including on accountability bodies, support to law enforcement and public financial management. We are one of the biggest donors to the Afghan Government's anti-corruption oversight body, High Office of Oversight. We will continue to offer experts from across the Government to support the Afghan Government to tackle corruption.

Broadcasting: Iran

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the extent to which the outputs of *(a)* BBC Persian TV and *(b)* other international broadcasters are jammed by the Iranian Government; what assessment he has made of the compatibility of such actions with international agreements; what steps he has taken to bring such jamming to an end; and if he will make a statement. [320170]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are aware that BBC Persian TV and other international broadcasters have been severely disrupted by jamming signals originating from inside Iran. We support the European Parliament's resolution of 10 February which condemned the Iranian authorities' efforts to disrupt media services in breach of their International Telecommunications Union (ITU) obligations. We are continuing to liaise closely with international partners, the ITU and the BBC World Service to seek a resolution to the issue.

Cyprus

Patrick Hall: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the policy of the Turkish Government on the migration of Turkish nationals from Anatolia to Northern Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [319947]

Chris Bryant: We are aware of reports of the migration of Turkish nationals from Anatolia to northern Cyprus. We have no information about a Turkish Government migration policy to Northern Cyprus.

Departmental Assets

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 53WS, on Foreign and Commonwealth Office finances, which assets he plans to sell in order to raise the £25 million. [318473]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Aylesbury (Mr. Lidington) on 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 213W.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what equipment owned by his Department has been *(a)* stolen and *(b)* otherwise unaccounted for in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan in each of the last three years; and what the cost of such equipment was. [317970]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is as follows:

Iraq

The following equipment owned by Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has been stolen, or is otherwise unaccounted for, during the last three years from our posts in Iraq:

Basra

No equipment has been stolen or is otherwise unaccounted for over the last three years.

Erbil

No equipment has been stolen or is otherwise unaccounted for over the last three years.

Baghdad

In 2007 a shipping container was stolen from a transport contractor while en route from Basra to Baghdad. It contained furnishings and vehicle spares. The cost of the furnishings was £20,000. The cost of the vehicle spares was £10,000. A pickup truck was stolen from the embassy compound by a former locally employed member of staff. The cost of the vehicle was $15,000.

In 2008 no equipment was reported missing or was otherwise unaccounted for.

In 2009 a pistol worth about £900 was removed from a security contractor's accommodation compound in the International Zone in Baghdad. The contractor's compound was not part of the embassy compound. Security in Baghdad is of paramount concern and we took this matter very seriously. A thorough investigation into the loss was carried out by a Board of Inquiry. As a result procedures were strengthened to ensure that such a loss could not occur again and two individuals faced disciplinary action.

Afghanistan

The following equipment owned by FCO has been stolen, or is otherwise unaccounted for, during the last three years from our posts in Afghanistan:

Lashkar Gah

No equipment has been recorded as stolen or was otherwise unaccounted for over the last three years.

Kabul

In 2007 and 2008, no equipment has been recorded as stolen or was otherwise unaccounted for. However, in 2009 eight sets of body armour totalling £7,600 loaned to visitors were not returned. Steps are being taken to recover them.

Departmental Manpower

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's civil servants work in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [319582]

Chris Bryant: As at 1 February 2010, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office employed 3,588 civil servants based in UK locations. All of these officers are based in England.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 34-5WS, on departmental expenditure limits, for what legal services resources were requested. [319676]

David Miliband: Government departments make a contribution to the costs of the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel (OPC) according to a formula which was introduced in 2004 following a Cabinet decision. Under the formula, departments contribute to the cost of the OPC in proportion to their share of the total volume of enacted legislation in the last five years. The £11,000 is the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's share of £8.8 million held on the Cabinet Office's baseline for OPC. The Cabinet Office also invoices departments for their share of the OPC's costs.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 34-5WS, on departmental expenditure limits, to what activities the administration costs for modernisation of his Department relate; and under what budget headings those costs were incurred. [319677]

David Miliband: This year, Treasury has made available administration budget funds to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Corporate Services programme from the modernisation fund in order to make working practices more efficient in future. In particular, money has been invested in two restructuring initiatives: in the UK, an early retirement scheme was run for the delegated grades; and overseas, posts have bid for funds to make efficiency gains in their local workforce engaged in corporate services activity. Funds were also used for the FCO Comprehensive Spending Review Value for Money programme. £400,000 was also passed on to UKTI to be spent on their modernisation programme.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 34-5WS, on departmental expenditure limits, to what programmes the restructuring costs referred to relate; and under what budget headings those costs were incurred. [319678]

David Miliband: This year, Treasury has made available administration budget funds to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in respect of our Comprehensive Spending Review Value for Money programme. Money has been invested in early departure schemes for both the Senior Civil Service and delegated grades.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 54WS, on Foreign and Commonwealth Office finances, what cost savings he plans to implement in relation to his Department's back-office operations; and whether he expects staff redundancies to form part of the cost savings process. [319679]

David Miliband: Details of the next stages of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office programme of streamlining referred to in the statement have yet to be finalised.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 54WS, on Foreign and Commonwealth Office finances, how much he plans to require the *(a)* British Council, *(b)* BBC World Service and *(c)* FCO Services Trading Fund to contribute to his Department's budget. [319680]

David Miliband: I refer the right hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Aylesbury (Mr. Lidington) of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 214W, namely that the British Council will make available £5 million to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and that the BBC World Service will make £7.7 million available to the FCO, including an underspend of £4 million in 2009-10. These contributions will not result in permanent reductions in their baseline, but are for 2010-11 only. FCO Services Trading Fund will make a special dividend payment to the FCO of £3 million in financial year 2010-11.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 54WS, on Foreign and Commonwealth Office finances, what annual limit will apply to the funds available to his Department under the foreign exchange adjustment account; and if he will make a statement. [319681]

David Miliband: For the financial year 2010-11, £20 million will be available as the Foreign and Commonwealth Office foreign exchange adjustment account. No arrangements have been made for departmental budgets for financial years beyond this, as such arrangements will depend on the outcome of a future comprehensive spending review.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 54WS, on Foreign and Commonwealth Office finances, how the operation of the new foreign exchange adjustment account differs from previous arrangements to manage his Department's exposure to exchange rate movements; and if he will make a statement. [319682]

David Miliband: The foreign exchange adjustment account will be a departmental unallocated provision which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) will draw on as necessary to manage the impact of foreign exchange fluctuations. It is not a return to the Overseas Price Movements Mechanism under which the FCO budget was adjusted from the Treasury Reserve to reflect foreign exchange rate movements.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 54WS, on Foreign and Commonwealth Office finances, what assets will be sold to make funding available for his Department's budget. [319683]

David Miliband: I refer the right hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Aylesbury (Mr. Lidington) of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 213W, namely that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office publishes details of disposals quarterly in a letter to the Foreign Affairs Committee. For commercial reasons and in order to realise maximum value from disposals, we do not publish details of planned disposals in advance.

Departmental Wines

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on its wine cellar in each of the last five years. [320344]

Chris Bryant: The Government Hospitality wine cellar provides for all Government Departments. For the period 2004-08, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron) to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 510W.

The figure for 2008-09 was £121,939.

Diplomatic Service: Manpower

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consultation took place with each of the Civil Service unions on proposals to replace management officers in overseas missions with locally-engaged staff; on what dates such consultation took place; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report on the outcome of such consultation. [318449]

Chris Bryant: The trade union side (TUS), including representatives from those trade unions officially recognised by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), were consulted several times informally between 8 June 2009 and 29 January 2010. That informal consultation continues.

The TUS side were consulted formally at Whitley Council meetings on 17 July and 18 August. The TUS also put their views about the localisation programme to the FCO Whitley Council Joint General Purposes Committee on 24 September 2009.

Egypt: Christianity

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the Government of Egypt on the treatment of Coptic Christians in that country. [319652]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government condemn all instances of discrimination and persecution of individuals and groups because of their religion or belief. At Egypt's Universal Periodic Review in February 2010 we encouraged further efforts by the Egyptian government and others in authority to reduce and prevent discrimination on the grounds of an individual's religion or belief. We have also raised the shooting dead of seven people outside a church in Naga Hammadi with the Egyptian Government at ministerial level and received assurances of Egypt's commitment to protecting its Christian population. We welcome the Egyptian Government's pursuit and arrest of the perpetrators of the crime.

The protection of human rights, including freedom of religion, is a central component of Egypt's ongoing dialogue with the EU.

G20: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2232W, on G20: public relations, what the cost to the public purse was of the external contracted staff; and from which companies they were contracted. [315498]

Chris Bryant: A temporary unit was created within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to support posts across the world in their engagement with stakeholders overseas, help organise local events during the run up to the summit, as well as providing information for the London G20 summit website.

The unit was staffed by FCO and temporary staff with specialist project co-ordination and website development skills. Temporary staff included a project co-ordinator and two events delivery co-ordinators hired from PA Consulting at a cost of £166,934. Two digital editors and a media co-ordinator were also hired through COI GovGap at a cost of £90,400. No external public relations or public affairs firms (consultancies) were contracted to provide support for the London G20 summit.

HIV Infection

Mr. Borrow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to fulfil its commitments under the Aids strategy, Achieving Universal Access, in *(a)* Cameroon, *(b)* Cote d'Ivoire, *(c)* Thailand and *(d)* Russia. [319169]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) role under the Government's Achieving Universal Access HIV strategy is primarily focused on advocacy and lobbying to support the strategy's aims. Our work is targeted towards those countries in which issues of gender inequality, stigma and discrimination are stopping people from taking up preventive services and testing, disclosing their status, and seeking treatment and care.

In Cameroon, we have been fighting institutionalised and societal stigma against people living with HIV/AIDS through a project called "Rights of AIDS Sufferers", run in the North-West region. It has encouraged employers and socio-cultural groups to adopt specific policies that protect the rights of HIV-infected workers. The work of the project was reported nationally on TV and in the print media.

Our embassy in Moscow is supporting an Oxfam project aimed at improving access and quality of health care for poor and marginalized groups, including those suffering from HIV and AIDS. The project strengthens the role of a coalition of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in holding the Government accountable for access to and quality of health care. The two-year project covers seven regions of Russia. Some of the interim outcomes include an increased awareness by citizens of their rights and the involvement of NGOs in helping to draft regional legislation on accessible health care, with the NGO focusing on the poor and vulnerable.

HIV is a global issue and the FCO also works multilaterally for global leadership and effective funding for HIV prevention, treatment and care, including in the countries listed. The UK works on the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board to push for improved human rights for at-risk communities and vulnerable people. For example, in November the UK worked successfully with the Eastern Europe Constituency and others to protect financial resources for a HIV/AIDS prevention programme in Russia, targeted at high risk groups.

In addition to our multilateral work, our Posts have been active in Sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia, although no specific activities have been undertaken under the Strategy in Cote d'Ivoire or Thailand.

Thailand has been recognised as a visionary leader in the AIDS response, and our embassy in Bangkok is currently reassessing what action it might take, under the strategy, to support the Thai Government's efforts.

India: Christianity

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of India on the treatment of Christians in Orissa State. [319662]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We maintain a dialogue with the Indian authorities on these issues. On 2-5 February a member of our High Commission in New Delhi participated in an EU delegation to Orissa. The EU delegation met Government and police officials, civil society and victims in Bhubaneswar and Kandhamal. They noted some progress on rehabilitation and resettlement. They also determined that the central government in New Delhi were providing basic financial compensation for some of the victims of the 2008 violence. The local authorities continue to work to address displacement ~~and~~ justice issues. The EU also identified cross-community peace-building initiatives and improving the capacity of victims' lawyers as important areas to address.

Niger: Politics and Government

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with representatives of the African Union and the Government of Niger on the safety of people travelling to and from Niger following the coup in that country. [319427]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The safety of UK nationals is of primary importance to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). We received information from a variety of sources including international partners at the time of the coup and adjusted our Niger travel advice accordingly, available on the FCO website. No harm came to any UK national in Niger during or after the time of the coup. The FCO will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Nuclear Weapons: Proliferation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met the *(a)* Parliamentary Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) Group and *(b)* Top Level Group of

Parliamentarians for Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament and Non-proliferation to discuss nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. [319847]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right. hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last met and discussed nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament with the Top Level Group of Parliamentarians for Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament and Non-proliferation on 10 February 2010. He has not met recently with the Parliamentary Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament Group.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carer's Allowance: Gwent

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Islwyn constituency who are ineligible for income support *(a)* are entitled to and *(b)* receive carer's allowance. [318144]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not available in the format requested; it is not possible to say for what reason a claimant getting carers allowance might not be getting income support.

Departmental Cleaning Services

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether all contracted cleaners for her Department's buildings in London are paid at the level of the London living wage or a higher level. [318516]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* The Department encourages all of its suppliers to maintain good working conditions for their staff but their actual terms and conditions are a matter for them.

Departmental Consultants

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on external recruitment consultants in 2009; [317166]

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department and its agencies spent on external recruitment consultants in the last 12 months. [315097]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department and its agencies spent £10.4 million on external recruitment consultants in the last 12 months.

This exceptional figure reflects the need to recruit over 15,000 additional staff into Jobcentre Plus in a very short period of time to meet the extra demands created by the recession. I expect the figure for 2010-11 to be substantially lower.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what mechanisms she plans to ensure that prime contractors in respect of work choice programmes include third sector and small and medium-sized enterprises as sub-contractors in their bids for contracts. [320076]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 2 March 2010]:* Prime contractors will be expected to ensure that DWP provision is joined up with local partnership arrangements, working with smaller, specialist providers many of whom will be Third Sector or voluntary organisations dealing with disadvantaged groups in the local area.

Two networking events were held in September 2009 to facilitate bringing together smaller specialist organisations and potential Work Choice Prime providers. Nearly 600 people attended these events.

Departmental NDPBs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for how many non-departmental public bodies her Department is responsible. [314257]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on the number of non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) sponsored by my Department is published in the annual Cabinet Office report, "Public Bodies" 2009 is available online at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/public-bodies.aspx

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Plants

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on pot plants in 2009; [317165]

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies has spent on pot plants in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [319202]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP occupies all of its properties under the terms of a facilities management contract under which it pays an overall charge in return for fully-serviced accommodation including, where appropriate, the provision of interior plants. It is not charged separately for any elements of this contract.

Departmental Public Consultation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many citizens' juries or summits have been hosted by her Department since October 2008; on what date each event took place; and which Ministers were present at each event. [310751]

Jim Knight: There is no central record of any citizen juries having been hosted by the Department for Work and Pensions since October 2008. However, a wide range of citizen engagement activities are regularly conducted across the Department. These are designed to ensure that citizens' needs are placed at the forefront of improving service delivery and in policy development.

The following large conferences, aimed at 100 or more delegates, have been organised by the Department for Work and Pensions and addressed by its Ministers since October 2008:

The Employment Summit took place on 12 January 2009, and was hosted by the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

Department for Work and Pensions' Annual Forum, London, 16 July 2009, for organisations that work with its customers. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department for Work and Pensions attended.

Welfare Reform Green Paper Consultation events, in Edinburgh on 9 October 2008 and Newcastle on 24 October 2008. Both were attended by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

Backing Young Britain: Young People's Summit on 2 September 2009. This was hosted by the Prime Minister, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and Mr. Iain Wright, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Grandparents Summit, a cross-Government event held on 12 November 2009. In attendance were the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Parliamentary Secretary for Equality at the Government Equalities Office.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many awards of disability living allowance were made to people whose main disabling condition was cancer in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average waiting time was for such an award to be made in that period. [316779]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 February 2010]*: The following table provides information on cases in payment where the main disabling condition is recorded as malignant disease and which includes cancer, carcinoma and leukaemia.

We do not record the average waiting time for a disability living allowance award where the main disabling condition was cancer.

Disability cases in payment where the main disabling condition is recorded as malignant disease, May 2009

	Number
Total	54,200

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 and have been uprated to be consistent with Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study data.
2. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.
4. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to disability living allowance. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample

Employment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what forecasts of employment levels have been *(a)* made and *(b)* used by her Department since 2007. [317633]

Jim Knight: The Department for Work and Pensions does not produce a forecast of employment levels of its own.

The Department draws on a number of elements of the Budget and pre-Budget report economic forecasts for planning purposes. These forecasts are detailed, along with a discussion of the current state of the economy, in the Budget and pre-Budget report. The latest forecast was set out in Annex A of the 2009 pre-Budget report (Cm 7747), published on 9 December 2009.

A copy of the pre-Budget report (Cm 7747) is available in the Library.

Employment Schemes: Young People

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what programmes her Department has to assist young people into employment in Rochdale and the North-West; and if she will make a statement. [320199]

Jim Knight: The Government have implemented a substantial package of national measures to address youth unemployment, which are helping young people in the North-West region and Rochdale as well as elsewhere. Young people aged 16 to 24 can access apprenticeships, internships, mentoring and work experience through Backing Young Britain. Jobseekers aged 18 to 24 who have been unemployed for six months are guaranteed the offer of a job, training or work experience through the Young Person's Guarantee via provision that includes the Future Jobs Fund, Routes into Work, Work Focused Training, and the Community Task Force, as well as internships and access to help with self employment. From April taking up one of these options will become mandatory.

We have so far agreed to fund 17,078 jobs under the Future Jobs Fund in the North-West.

Equality 2025

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 863W, on the Review of Equality 2025, on what date *(a)* the report was completed and *(b)* Ministers of her Department received the report; how many officials of her Department are responsible for considering and implementing the report's recommendations; and if she will make a statement. [318792]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 February 2010]*: The initial recommendations from the review were submitted to the Minister for Disabled People for approval in September 2009 and were accepted by him. Following the written ministerial statement to Parliament on 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 40-42WS, the recommendations were published on the website of the Office for Disability Issues. The report was finalised on 23 February 2010, following detailed work to ensure compliance with data protection requirements, and sent to the Minister for Disabled People.

The Secretary to Equality 2025 has been involved in supporting Equality 2025 with implementing these recommendations, with input, as appropriate, from the Director and Deputy Director of the Office for Disability Issues. Work on implementing the recommendations is ongoing and will be completed by late June 2010.

Health Services: Isle of Man

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons her Department has not replied to the letter from the Government of the Isle of Man sent in 2009, requesting advice on the

Isle of Man's desire to negotiate a bilateral health agreement with the Scottish Executive; and if she will make a statement. [320268]

Helen Goodman: My Department has no record of receiving any such letter from the Government of the Isle of Man in 2009 concerning its negotiation of a bilateral health agreement with the Scottish Executive. If my hon. Friend would care to supply further details of the letter, I will look into the matter urgently.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of sanctions that have been imposed on existing claimants of incapacity benefit; and what the most common reasons are for the imposition of sanctions on claimants. [319021]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 26 February 2010]:* The purpose of sanctions is to encourage compliance with the requirement to take part in work-focused interviews. The only reason for imposing sanctions on claimants is if they fail to take part in a work-focused interview, without good cause.

From the assessments which the Department has made of the effectiveness of the sanctions regime, as part of the extension to existing customers in Jobcentre Plus-led Pathways districts over 2005-06, it is clear the use of sanctions had a positive impact on attendance at work-focused interviews. However, customer views on the appropriateness of the use of sanctions were mixed.

The Department has published two research reports on the experiences of existing customers and these include a discussion regarding sanctions:

Pathways to Work: Extension to some existing customers: Early findings from qualitative research. Policy Studies Institute, Department for Work and Pensions report no. 323, 2006,

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2005-2006/rrep323.pdf

Pathways to Work: Extension to existing customers (matched case study). National Centre for Social Research. Department for Work and Pensions report no. 418, 2007,

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2007-2008/rrep418.pdf

Copies of both reports have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of incapacity benefit were sanctioned in each of the last 10 years; and what the monetary value was of sanctions imposed in each of those years. [319022]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 26 February 2010]:* The Department does not publish data on the number of people who have been sanctioned who claim incapacity benefit; such data could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The same is true for those customers in receipt of employment and support allowance and income support.

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what forecast the Government made of the number of expected referrals to flexible new deal phase 1 providers in each region in each of the first six months of its operation; [317038]

(2) how many customers have been referred to flexible new deal phase 1 providers in each region in each month to the end of January 2010. [317047]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* The information is not available in the format requested. Delivery of the flexible new deal (FND) started from 5 October 2009 in phase 1 areas.

The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure that we are able to publish statistics that meet the high quality standards at the earliest opportunity. Further information on the timing and scope of the release of FND statistics will be made available through the Department's website.

Pensioners: Poverty

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what additional assistance her Department provided to pensioners during the recent recession. [319026]

Angela Eagle: The Government provided a range of additional support to pensioners through the recent economic downturn and continues to provide support during the early stages of economic recovery.

In his pre-Budget report statement on 24 November 2008 the Chancellor announced the intention to give every pensioner a one-off payment of £60 on top of the regular £10 Christmas bonus received in December 2008. This was paid as a one-off increase to the Christmas bonus for 2008 only and was paid to all qualifying recipients of the Christmas bonus.

The payment provided additional direct financial support to help vulnerable groups through the economic downturn. In total the additional £60 payments cost around £900 million.

The Government made an additional payment alongside the winter fuel payment for winters 2008-09 and 2009-10 of £50 for households with someone aged 60-79 and £100 for those with someone aged 80 or over. This means the winter fuel payments have been £250 and £400 respectively which provides a significant contribution towards an older person's winter fuel bill. Cold weather payments for the winter of 2008-09 and 2009-10 have also been increased from £8.50 to £25.00 providing additional support to the most vulnerable. With the exception of those living in certain accommodation such as care homes, all pensioners on pension credit will qualify for a cold weather payment when the average temperature has been recorded as, or is forecast to be 0° C or below over seven consecutive days at the weather station linked to the eligible customer's postcode.

In April 2010, the Government have committed to increase the basic state pension by 2.5 per cent. This commitment, first given in 2001, was confirmed in the Chancellor's 2009 pre-Budget report, despite the negative growth for the September 2009 retail prices index, providing a real-terms boost to basic state pension. This means that in 2010-11, pensioners will have seen a long-term real increase of 12 per cent. in their basic state pension, which is over £10 per week, since 1997.

The Chancellor has also confirmed that from April 2010 the poorest pensioners will also benefit from an above indexation increase in the standard minimum guarantee in pension credit, an increase of £2.60 a week for single people and £3.95 for couples. This means that, from April 2010, no single pensioner need live on less than £132.60 a week and no couple on less than £202.40. That is a real terms increase of more than a third for the poorest pensioners since 1997. The 2 per cent. increase ensures that the vast majority of the poorest pensioners will be able to see the full benefit of the 2.5 per cent. increase in the basic state pension.

In order to help those pensioners who receive income from savings and who may have been affected by lower interest rates, the Government have increased the threshold in pension credit (and housing and council tax benefit for those who have attained the qualifying age for pension credit) from £6,000 to £10,000 from November 2009, so that pensioners can have up to £10,000 without it affecting their benefits.

This change will benefit around 500,000 pensioners and will mean around 88 per cent. of pension credit recipients will have all of their capital ignored in their pension credit assessment.

The Government also increased ISA limits up to £10,200 for people aged 50 and over from 6 October 2009.

Since November 2008, the Government have maintained the standard interest rate used to calculate support for mortgage interest at 6.08 per cent. to provide support for homeowners on pension credit who receive help with their mortgage. In his pre-Budget report on 9 December 2009, the Chancellor announced that the rate of 6.08 per cent. would be maintained for a further six months, to provide continued support to these customers.

The Government also launched a tax-back awareness campaign in autumn 2009 contacting all those in receipt of pension credit to encourage them to claim back tax they may have overpaid on their savings income and, where possible, register to receive interest on their savings tax-free in future.

Social Security Benefits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the monetary value of unclaimed benefits of each type in *(a)* the Highlands, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* England and Wales in each of the last three years. [320124]

Helen Goodman: Estimates of unclaimed benefits are available for Great Britain only; they are not available for the geographical areas requested.

The latest estimates of unclaimed benefit amounts for Great Britain are published in the report "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2007-08" a copy of which is available in the Library.

Social Security Benefits: Fibromyalgia

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of applicants for disability living allowance diagnosed with fibromyalgia have had their application approved. [318395]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not available, as data on diagnosis for disallowed claims are not collected. This means that it is not possible to determine what percentage of applicants who listed Fibromyalgia on their claim form were allowed or disallowed.

The amount of disability living allowance someone receives, depends on how much help they need with personal care and/or mobility. It is not dependent on whether they have a specific diagnosis or medical condition. For example, a customer would not be awarded disability living allowance on the basis of a diagnosis of Fibromyalgia. The decision would be based upon their care/supervision needs and on the help they need to get around as a result of the any associated physical or psychological complications.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information her Department has issued to staff of the Disability and Carers Service with regard to fibromyalgia. [318399]

Jonathan Shaw: There is no specific internal guidance for Decision Makers about fibromyalgia.

Staff use the Decision Makers' Guide and the NHS Choices website, and specific advice is obtained on a case-by-case basis from health care professionals working under contract within the Department.

State Retirement Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) with reference to the answer of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 817W, on state retirement pensions, how much her Department has paid out in such lump sums to date; how many people have received such payments; when she expects to complete the exercise; and if she will make a statement; [319818]

(2) what her most recent estimate is of the number of cases of pensioners potentially entitled to lump sum payments of backdated retirement pension through payment of Class 3 national insurance contributions to take account of pensioners. [320120]

Angela Eagle *[holding answers 1 and 3 March 2010]*: The Department has contacted 23,884 women with potential to benefit from paying class 3 national insurance contributions. For the period up to 22 February 2010, 12,924 women have received lump sums of backdated pension, totalling £10,138,932.00. Of these, 871 also benefited from arrears of state pension after correction of their home responsibilities protection (HRP).

In addition, as part of this exercise, 2,360 customers were paid arrears of state pension resulting only from correction of their HRP. The total arrears paid resulting from correction of HRP is £1,488,244.

The exercise has officially ended but customers have, by law, until 5 April 2010 to contact the Department so this figure may increase.

Vauxhall

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Vauxhall constituency, the effects on the constituency of changes to her Department's policies since 1997. [310327]

Jonathan Shaw: As the biggest delivery Department in the UK, DWP makes a difference to millions of people every day, helping them to lead safer, fairer and more rewarding lives that are free from poverty. The policies that we have introduced since 1997 have aimed to give people more choice and control over their lives. Through our welfare reform programme, we are committed to providing personalised support to everyone who needs it so they have the opportunity to get into and remain in work.

Support to find work

Through Jobcentre Plus, we are promoting work as the best form of welfare for people of working age. Since 1997, the number of people unemployed in Vauxhall has decreased by 27 per cent. to 5,067, and the number unemployed for more than one year has decreased by 71 per cent. to 810. Since 1997 to May 2009 the number of lone parents claiming income support in Vauxhall has decreased by 43 per cent. to 3,090.

Our New Deal programmes have helped lone parents, the young unemployed, the long-term unemployed, disabled people, the over 50s and partners of unemployed people to move from benefit into work. Since their inception over 2.2 million people in the UK have found work with the support of the New Deal, and 7,510 have been helped in Vauxhall.

Support for children

We introduced a target to halve child poverty by 2010-11 on the way to eradicating it by 2020. Poverty is measured using a headline indicator of the proportion of children in households with an income below 60 per cent. of contemporary household median income before housing costs. This is in line with international best practice.

Statistics on the numbers of children living in poverty are not available at the constituency level, but the latest information for the inner London area shows that the proportion of children in poverty fell from 39 per cent. to 27 per cent. since 1997.

Support for older people

Since 1997 our strategy has been to target extra help at the poorest pensioners while providing a solid foundation of support for all.

This year we will be spending over £13 billion more on pensioners than if we had continued with the policies that were in place in 1997. Around half of that money will go to the poorest third of pensioners.

In 1997 the poorest pensioners, who received income support, lived on £69 a week (£98 in today's prices). Today pension credit, which was introduced in 2003, means no pensioner needs to live on less than £130 a week, £198.45 for couples. As of May 2009, 5,260 pensioners in Vauxhall are receiving pension credit.

In 2007-08 there were 900,000 fewer pensioners living in relative poverty in the UK compared to 1998-99 (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs). Statistics on the numbers of pensioners living in relative poverty are not available at the constituency level, but the latest information for the inner London area shows that the proportion of pensioners in poverty has fallen from 42 per cent. to 29 per cent. since 1997.

Pensioners in the UK also benefit from a range of additional support such as the winter fuel payment which this winter is worth £250 for households aged between 60-79 and £400 for households aged 80 or over. These payments provide vital reassurance to older people that they can afford to turn up their heating during cold weather. Prior to winter 1997-98 less than £60 million was spent helping pensioners meet their fuel bills—this year we will be spending around £2.7 billion on winter fuel payments alone. In 2008-09, 11,950 people aged 60 and over benefited from winter fuel payments in Vauxhall.

We have also taken steps to strengthen and protect the private pensions system to ensure people can continue to have confidence to save for their future through the establishment of the Pensions Protection Fund, the Financial Assistance Scheme and a more powerful and proactive pensions regulator.

The protection system ensures that, unlike in 1997, people aren't left without a pension even in the event that their employer becomes insolvent.

In total 423 people in the London area are receiving compensation from the Pension Protection Fund (data not available at constituency level).

We have also taken forward a radical package of pension reforms in the Pensions Acts of 2007 and 2008 which will deliver a fairer and more generous state pension and extend the opportunity of workplace pension saving to millions, many for the first time.

The state pension reforms begin to come into effect from 2010 and will mean around three quarters of women reaching state pension age in 2010 are expected to qualify for a full basic state pension compared to half without reform.

Support for disabled people and carers

Since 2001, we have significantly extended and improved civil rights for disabled people in areas such as employment, education, access to goods and services and transport. Disabled people in Vauxhall will have benefited from these improvements. The Welfare Reform Act 2009 contains powers to increase choice and control for disabled adults, including disabled parents, enabling them to choose how certain state support is used to meet their individual needs. Older and less well-off carers are receiving extra help through the provisions within the National Carers Strategy.

Work Capability Assessment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons all three point-scoring descriptors have been removed from the work capability assessment; and if she will make a statement. [318176]

Jonathan Shaw: In October 2008, with the introduction of employment and support allowance, the work capability assessment replaced the personal capability assessment for all new claims. The new assessment was developed in consultation with representative groups and medical experts, to provide a more accurate assessment of an individual's functional capability in the context of a modern workplace, who concluded that the three point descriptors did not add up to an overall level of functional limitation at which it is unreasonable to expect a person to work. They reflect the sort of condition that any individual can expect to experience, without having any significant functional limitation.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the average number of flying hours for each *(a)* Apache and *(b)* Chinook machine in Afghanistan in each of the last three years. [320007]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will not provide details of the number of flying hours that our deployed helicopters in Afghanistan have completed, either by specific airframes or by the fleet as a whole, for operational security reasons; the release of this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness, or security of our armed forces.

Since November 2006, there has been an increase of nearly 140 per cent. in all UK battlefield helicopter flying hours. We will enhance our helicopter capability further, and will ensure that it continues to meet operational requirements. For example, we are converting eight Chinook Mk 3 aircraft to a support helicopter role and this will allow us to deliver more Chinooks to Afghanistan.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much his Department has paid for improvements and modernisation of residential dwellings in each year since Annington Homes acquired its former housing stock; [320261]

(2) how much his Department paid Annington Homes in *(a)* rent and *(b)* maintenance costs for residential dwellings in each year since the company acquired his Department's former properties. [320262]

Mr. Kevan Jones: While the Ministry of Defence (MOD) retains responsibility for the upgrade, improvement and maintenance of properties leased from Annington Homes Ltd. (AHL), the expenditure is not centrally recorded nor separately identifiable from that on other Service Family Accommodation (SFA) in England and Wales or Great Britain.

However, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 401W, which gave details of the total maintenance and upgrade expenditure on SFA in Great Britain. We have been able to break this down further as follows:

Upgrading SFA in England and Wales

	Expenditure (£ million)
2001-02	n/a
2002-03	n/a
2003-04	8.3
2004-05	6.0
2005-06	4.4
2006-07	11.4
2007-08	13.9
2008-09	27.4

Most SFA properties in England and Wales were sold to AHL by the previous Conservative Government in 1996, the majority of which were immediately leased back by the MOD to house entitled service personnel and their families. The annual rent paid to AHL in each year was:

Year commencing	*Rent (£ million)*
November 1996	72.3
June 1997	110.6
June 1998	108.6
June 1999	109.7
June 2000	115.7
June 2001	119.2
June 2002	127.6
June 2003	129.8
June 2004	131.9
June 2005	138.1
June 2006	143.5
June 2007	148.6
June 2008	150.3
June 2009 to December 2009	113.0

The Department does not pay any maintenance costs to AHL.

Army: Lost Property

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many pieces of protective eye wear have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from the armed forces in each of the last 12 months; [319709]

(2) how many army uniforms have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last 12 months.; [319710]

(3) how many sets of army gloves have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last 12 months.; [319711]

(4) how many army flares have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last 12 months; [319712]

(5) how many army knives have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last 12 months.; [319713]

(6) how many army ration packs have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last 12 months; [319716]

(7) how many army medical kits have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last 12 months; [319718]

(8) how many army radios have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last 12 months; [319721]

(9) how many pieces of body armour have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from the Army in each of the last 12 months; [319722]

(10) how many army helmets have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last 12 months. [319723]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many army rocket launchers have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last 12 months. [319714]

Mr. Kevan Jones: No rocket launchers have been reported as lost or stolen during the last 12 months.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many grenades have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from the Army in each of the last 12 months. [319715]

Mr. Kevan Jones: No grenades have been reported as lost or stolen during the last 12 months.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many army night vision goggles have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last 12 months. [319717]

Mr. Kevan Jones: No night vision goggles have been centrally reported as stolen in the past 12 months but 21 have been reported lost. These include helmet mounted systems and those designed for use in military vehicles.

Army: National Bullying Helpline

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contacts the Army has had with the National Bullying Helpline since 2004; and whether the Army has made any payments to *(a)* the National Bullying Helpline and *(b)* HR and Diversity Management Limited in that period. [320160]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Army has no relationship with either the National Bullying Helpline or HR and Diversity Management. The armed forces have a well-publicised Confidential Support Line which is run by the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association—Forces Help charity, which is independent of the Chain of Command.

Individuals within the Army are free to contact either the National Bullying Helpline or HR and Diversity Management should they wish to do so. While it is possible that either organisation may have made contact with Army units on individual cases, this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Cadet Forces

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* school-aged children in maintained schools and *(b)* other school-aged children were enrolled in community cadet forces in the latest year for which figures are available. [316310]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information required is not held in the format requested. The data provided reflect only the category of State schools (noting that for the purposes of Combined Cadet Force (CCF) data collated by MOD, all other schools are categorised as Independent).

As at 1 April 2009, and subject to the caveats mentioned above, there were 7,579 School pupils who were members of their State School's Combined Cadet Force. However, given that the majority of Cadets are members of a community-based Cadet unit, it is estimated that some 90,000 cadets are state school pupils. In the same timeframe there were some 130,000 cadets overall. It should also be noted that there are 25 known partnerships where Independent Schools with CCFs provide cadet places to neighbouring State schools; for these partnerships it is not possible to identify the numbers of State School cadets.

Full statistics on cadet forces can be found on the Defence Analytical Services and Advice organisation's website in their Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 7:

www.dasa.mod.uk

Defence Equipment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* rifles, *(b)* mortars, *(c)* machine guns and *(d)* artillery weapons were (i) in service with the Army and (ii) available for use by the Army in operations on the latest date for which figures are available. [319491]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The in-service figures for rifles, mortars, machine guns and artillery weapons are provided in the following table. Availability data for rifles, mortars and machine guns are not held centrally. I am withholding information on the number of artillery weapons currently available on operations, as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

	In service (number)
SA80 A2	180,000
SSI/338	561
Carbine	1414
Machine Guns	
HMG	1,100
GMG	350
GPMG	8450
LMG	4500
Mortars	
81 MM Mortar	500
60MM B Mortar	115
60MM H Mortar	102
Artillery	
AS90	116
105 mm Lt Gun	125
MLRS	36
Stormer SP HVM	60
Rapier FSV Launcher	32

Departmental Buildings

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated value is of (i) vacant and (ii) occupied office space (A) owned and (B) rented by his Department. [310532]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Within Defence, the civil office estate is defined as that which is capable of being shared with other Government Departments. Information in respect of these offices will take some time to collect and verify. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Other office space outside this definition includes facilities within armed forces establishments and buildings. This information is not recorded and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Sarah Teather:

In my answer of 14 January (Official Report, column 1103W) I undertook to write to you with details of the area and estimated value of vacant and occupied office space owned and rented by this Department.

Within the defence estate, the civil office estate is broadly defined as that which is capable of being shared with other Government Departments. On this basis the details are as follows:

Owned

	Square metre space	*Equivalent rental value (£ million)*
Occupied	345,000	21.4
Vacant	1,800	0.2

Rented

	Square metre space	*Total rental value (£ million)*
Occupied	80,307	14.6
Vacant	2,294	0.89

Office space outside this definition includes facilities within Armed Forces establishments and space used as offices (perhaps temporarily) within buildings of a different type such as hangars on barracks.

Departmental Paper

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* brands of (i) paper and (ii) paper products his Department uses; and what his Department's policy is on the procurement of those materials. [320031]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) procures the majority of its paper and some paper products from Office Depot UK Ltd. under an enabling contract that was awarded to the company in 2007. Paper products are also procured from Lyreco UK Ltd under a similar enabling contract for the supply of stationery items. Specialist photographic paper is supplied by Calumet.

The brands of paper available under the Office Depot contract are: Office Depot/Niceday; Evolve; Xerox; IQ Selection; Mondi IQ; Conqueror; Epsom; Hewlett Packard; Fizz; Regal; Maine; Satimat; Crusade; Amber; Graphic; Colorit; Lumi; Kodak and Fuji.

The brands of paper products available under the Office Depot, Lyreco and Calumet contracts are: Mondi IQ; Conqueror; Epson; Hewlett Packard; Office Depot; Xerox; Kraft; Vanguard; Lyreco/Impega; Avery; Brother; Dymo; P-touch; Clairefontaine; Jiffy; Tyvek; NewGuardian; Tenzalope; Post-it; Pukka Pad; Black n'Red; Unipad; Vestry; Goldline; Collins; Sasco; Filofax; Nobo; Acco; Bantex; Leitz; Centurion; Eastlight; Elba; Exacompta; Esselte; Concord; Acco and Fellowes.

MOD's procurement policy requires the use of recycled paper and paper products except where these do not meet specific requirements, such as for specialist photographic paper. Recycled content under the current contracts with Office Depot and Lyreco varies between 70 per cent. and 100 per cent. It will be our aim in the follow-on contracts to adhere fully to the Government's policy, except in cases where there are specific specialised needs.

Military Bases: Security

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 465W, on "Military Bases: Security", in which military bases the incursions were recorded. [318619]

Mr. Kevan Jones: RAF Fylingdales, HMNB Clyde and RAF Mildenhall.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Advertising

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in each year since 2005. [320779]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Angus (Mr. Weir) on 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 478W, and to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 502-03W.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many thefts from his Department have been recorded in the last two years. [318999]

Barbara Follett: In the financial year 2007-08 there was a total of 17 thefts from the Department for Communities and Local Government. The items stolen are:

	Number
Building passes	3
Desk-top computers	3
Laptop computers	9
Mobile phones	2

In the financial year 2008-09 there was a total of 11 thefts from the Department for Communities and Local Government. The items stolen are:

	Number
BlackBerrys	5
Laptop computers	5
Mobile phone	1

The stolen building passes were reported and cancelled ensuring that no unauthorised entry to CLG premises occurred.

None of the information contained on laptops, PCs or BlackBerrys was classified. However, each laptop and PC was password protected and the BlackBerrys were both encrypted and password protected.

Derelict Land: Regeneration

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will establish a Coalfields Regeneration Review to gauge progress and identify priorities for the future. [320516]

Mr. Ian Austin: Communities and Local Government intend to undertake a review of the Government's programme to regenerate former coalfield communities. The Department will work with stakeholders on the details of the review and an announcement will be made in due course.

Homes and Communities Agency and Tenant Services Authority: Equality

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the *(a)* Tenant Services Authority and *(b)* Homes and Communities Agency has obtained legal advice on its obligations under the provisions of the Equality Bill. [320280]

John Healey: Neither the Homes and Communities Agency nor the Tenant Services Authority has sought external legal advice on the provisions of the Equality Bill. However, both organisations have considered in-house legal advice and have published single equalities schemes.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he intends to publish a draft revised Circular 8/95 on the operation of the Housing Revenue Account ring fence. [320571]

Mr. Ian Austin: We intend to make an announcement in the next few weeks which will describe the progress we have made on self-financing, set out more details of our proposals and provide a summary of responses to the consultation. We expect this will include proposals on how the housing revenue account ring fence would operate within a reformed system.

Housing: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many first-time buyers purchased a home in West Chelmsford constituency in the last three years. [320353]

Mr. Ian Austin: Estimates of the number of first-time buyers buying a home with a mortgage in the UK are published by the Council of Mortgage Lenders based on their Regulated Mortgage Survey. However, these data are not available at the geographical level requested.

Regional Planning and Development

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what strategic development areas (SDAs) there are in England; how many homes are expected to be constructed in each SDA; and when each area is expected to be completed. [320258]

Mr. Ian Austin: "Strategic development area" is not an official or specific designation—it is a general planning term like the phrase "town centre" used in many, but not all, development plans (local, regional and sub regional) to refer to areas where development is expected to happen. We therefore do not hold the information requested.

Social Rented Housing: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many properties were funded under the Temporary Social Housing programme in each of the last three years; [318774]

(2) how many properties managed by registered social landlords and funded through the Temporary Social Housing programme in 2008-09 were owned by *(a)* private individuals, *(b)* unregistered social landlords and co-operatives, *(c)* local authorities and *(d)* other public bodies; [318731]

(3) how many properties in receipt of Temporary Social Housing programme funding were *(a)* improved and *(b)* unimproved in each of the last three years; [318733]

(4) how many properties in receipt of funding under the Temporary Social Housing programme in 2008-09 were *(a)* subject to compulsory purchase orders, *(b)* subject to Empty Dwelling Management Orders, *(c)* long-term privately owned, *(d)* awaiting redevelopment or sale and *(e)* over shops in town centres; [318734]

(5) how many registered social landlords were in receipt of funding under the Temporary Social Housing programme in each of the last three years; [318735]

(6) how much was spent on the Temporary Social Housing programme in each of the last five years. [318736]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 25 February 2010]*: The following table shows spend on temporary social housing (TSH) through the Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) National Affordable Housing Programme (NAHP) over the last five years.

	£ million
2004-05	17.1
2005-06	9.6
2006-07	10.5
2007-08	12.4
2008-09	12.9

Source:
HCA

The following table shows the number of TSH units provided over each of the three years 2006-07 to 2008-09 through HCA's NAHP which were improved or unimproved and the number of registered social landlords (RSLs):

	Improved	*Unimproved*	*Homes provided*	*Number of RSLs which completed TSH schemes*
2006-07	146	232	378	14
2007-08	311	161	472	14
2008-09	260	197	457	12

Source:
HCA Investment Management System

Information is not held centrally on whether these properties were owned by *(a)* private individuals, *(b)* un-registered social landlords and co-operatives, *(c)* local authorities and *(d)* other public bodies or on whether they were *(a)* properties subject to compulsory purchase orders, *(b)* properties subject to Empty Dwelling Management Orders, *(c)* long-term privately owned, *(d)* awaiting redevelopment or sale and *(e)* properties over shops in town centres.

Supported Housing: Young People

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 770W, on "Housing: Lone Parents", how many individual places in foyers and specialist supported housing will be provided each year under that scheme; and whether he has made an estimate of the proportion of all 16 to 17 year old single parents able to be housed under that scheme. [319109]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Prime Minister announced in September 2009 that all 16 and 17-year-old teenage parents should receive housing with support.

TREASURY

Alcoholic Drinks: Fraud

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials have been employed to deliver the HM Revenue and Customs' alcohol fraud strategy. [316991]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There are no figures available for the number of HMRC staff working on alcohol fraud strategy. This is because officers are deployed flexibly across a number of areas.

Banks: Manpower

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the effect of the reclassification of employees of nationalised banks on the *(a)* number of public sector employees and *(b)* total public sector pay bill in the next 12 months; [318633]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the effect of the reclassification of employees of banks in public ownership on *(a)* the number of people employed in the public sector and *(b)* total public sector pay bill. [320647]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: It is a matter for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to determine classification of employees in these banks and the impact that any such classification has on public sector pay over the next 12 months will be reflected in ONS statistics.

Building Societies: Regulation

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what reports he has received from the Financial Services Authority on its stress testing exercise on building societies; and whether that exercise has been concluded. [313292]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The FSA made a statement on stress tests on 28 May 2009, available at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Communication/PR/2009/068.shtml

Further to this, the FSA have set out their ongoing approach to stress testing in Policy Paper PS 09/20 (published December 2009, available at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/About/What/international/stress_testing/index.shtml

More details are available on the FSA's website.

Child Benefit: Foreigners

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many nationals of each A8 country were receiving child benefit for a child or children living in another EEA member state at the end of December 2009; and in respect of how many such children child benefit was being paid on that date; [320265]

(2) how many nationals of each A8 country were receiving child benefit for a child or children living in another EEA member state at the end of the most recent month for which figures are available; and in respect of how many such children child benefit was being paid on that date. [320279]

Mr. Timms: Around 7.5 million families are currently claiming child benefit for around 13 million children.

The information requested is provided in the table. These child benefit awards are made by virtue of EC social security co-ordinating regulations which the UK has administered since it joined the European Economic Community in 1973.

	As of 31 December 2009		*As of 28 February 2010*	
Country	*Number of awards*	*Number of children*	*Number of awards*	*Number of children*
Czech Republic	174	289	180	299
Estonia	16	28	19	31
Hungary	76	119	78	124
Latvia	281	373	302	405
Lithuania	797	1,133	827	1,196
Poland	23,214	37,633	23,324	38,677
Slovakia	1,506	2,554	1,523	2,639
Slovenia	5	6	4	6
Total	26,069	42,135	26,257	43,377

Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many *(a)* banks and *(b)* building societies have used the provisions of the Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008 to transfer funds into the Big Lottery Fund for good causes; [319965]

(2) how much money has been transferred to the Big Lottery Fund for distribution to good causes under the provisions of the Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008. [319966]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Chancellor announced in pre-Budget report 2009 that the Co-operative Financial Services intend to submit an application to the FSA for authorisation to establish and administrate a Reclaim Fund, subject to work going ahead as planned, as part of the Dormant Bank and Building Societies Accounts Act 2008. Once established, dormant account funds will be transferred from banks and building societies to the Reclaim Fund. This will enable surplus funds to flow to the BIG Lottery Fund and to spending priorities in due course.

Equitable Life Assurance Society

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what occasions Ministers in his Department have met with Mr Chris Wiscarson, Chief Executive of Equitable Life, since his appointment in September 2009; and when he expects the next such meeting to take place. [320579]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Gift Aid

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much the Government contributed to charities through the Gift Aid scheme in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many people made charitable contributions through the scheme in each such year; [319949]

(2) what steps he has taken to increase the number of charitable donations made using the Gift Aid scheme. [319950]

Ian Pearson: HMRC does not collate figures for the total number of people giving using Gift Aid. However, donations using Gift Aid, and the amount of Gift Aid tax relief paid to charities over the last five years, are set out in the following table.

	Amount donated using Gift Aid (£ billion)	*Repayments of tax to charities through Gift Aid (£ million)*
2004-05	2.8	626
2005-06	3.4	751
2006-07	3.8	830
2007-08	4.1	898
2008-09	4.3	[1]947

[1] £947 million includes £56 million paid as Gift Aid transitional relief supplement.

Source:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/charities/menu.htm

(tables 10.1 and 10.3)

Following the Gift Aid consultation in 2007, the Government announced a package of measures in Budget 2008 aimed at increasing the take-up of Gift Aid, including:

improved HMRC guidance for charities and donors;

a new Gift Aid toolkit to help charities set up and run successful Gift Aid schemes;

extension of the tax effective giving initiative delivered through the Institute of Fundraising;

a small charities training programme, to ensure that small local charities can access guidance and training on Gift Aid;

promoting the use of local umbrella charities to help community and voluntary groups access Gift Aid;

a new online Gift Aid mentoring forum for charities.

In February 2010, HM Treasury set up a Gift Aid forum to consider further improvements to Gift Aid, informed by recent Government-sponsored research into the effect of tax incentives on charitable giving. The forum will come up with recommendations by September 2010.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 765W, on "Housing: Valuation", how many dwellings are recorded *(a)* with a WK value significant code and *(b)* as having a reputational issue. [319737]

Ian Pearson: The number of dwellings recorded as *(a)* having a value significant code (VSC) of WK was 72,244 as at 2 September 2009, which represents 0.3 per cent. of all dwellings in council tax valuation lists in England and Wales. No specific recording is made of *(b)* a 'reputational risk'. Where a value significant feature is to be recorded that is not covered by any of the other VSCs, it is given a WK code. The number of dwellings with each VSC is available in both the disclosure log on the Valuation Office Agency's website at

www.voa.gov.uk

and the Library of the House.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of *(a)* 7 December 2009 and *(b)* 22 January 2010 from the hon. Member for Forest of Dean on the Government's proposals to replace the existing taxation system affecting gambling, reference FD4725. [320269]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 9 January.

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many port businesses in single port hereditaments were separately assessed for business rates in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2005, *(d)* 2006, *(e)* 2007, *(f)* 2008 and *(g)* 2009; what consultation was held with each of them on the matter; and what statutory requirements applied to such new assessments. [319443]

Ian Pearson: The Valuation Office Agency does not hold separate lists of properties (hereditaments) attributable to smaller locations. The information requested could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

As he will be aware, however, prior to the ports review around 2,000 hereditaments within the 55 ports in England and Wales were on the rating lists with an effective date of 1 April 2005. Following the review, the total increased by over 600 hereditaments.

Valuation officers have a statutory requirement to maintain accurate rating lists and occupiers affected by the ports review were notified of the findings of the review as and when each review was completed.

Presbyterian Mutual Society

Mark Durkan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made by the Ministerial Working Group on the Presbyterian Mutual Society. [318467]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* The Ministerial Working Group on the Presbyterian Mutual Society (PMS) continues to investigate the circumstances surrounding its collapse, to consider the losses incurred by its members and to consider what, if any, action can be taken to mitigate members' losses, particularly those hardest hit by the collapse.

Public Sector

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of each Total Place pilot report submitted to his Department. [319633]

Mr. Byrne: The publication of documents submitted by the local authorities and their partners involved in Total Place is a decision for them. However, some of the pilots have now made their February 2010 reports public, by either publishing on their own websites or the Total Place website.

Rates and Rating: Caravan Sites

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Traveller pitches are liable for *(a)* council tax and *(b)* business rates; and what estimate the Valuation Office Agency has made of the number of pitches which are not rated either for council tax or business rates. [319016]

Ian Pearson: No data are available to differentiate Traveller pitches from other caravan pitches treated as dwellings for council tax purposes.

There are currently six Traveller sites subject to non-domestic rating.

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Chief Executive, HM Revenue and Customs, expects to reply to the letter of 1 February 2010 from the hon. Member for Walsall, North; and for what reasons no initial acknowledgement of the letter was sent. [320348]

Mr. Timms: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 2 March 2010.

HM Revenue and Customs apologises for the oversight in not issuing an acknowledgement.

Revenue and Customs: Surveys

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what HM Revenue and Customs Customer Service Survey overview reports were produced for *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009; and where such reports are published. [312154]

Mr. Timms: The Customer Service Survey overview report for 2007 is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/

HM Revenue and Customs is currently finalising the report of the 2008-09 Customer Survey and will publish it on the Department's website in due course.

Revenue and Customs: Television

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs has spent on sponsorship of the television programme The Business Inspector. [319939]

Mr. Timms: HMRC's contribution to the series' budget is £370,000. This should provide good value for money in comparison with advertising alone.

Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will report on the findings from the technical consultation on the proposed legislation on Furnished Holiday Lettings which closed on 26 February. [320577]

Mr. Timms: There are no plans to publish a full report on the findings from the technical consultation on the proposed legislation to repeal the Furnished Holiday Lettings (FHL) rules, as none of the responses to this informal consultation identified any technical difficulties with the draft legislation which was published at the 2009 pre-Budget report.

Some respondents identified specific points on which they would like more information about the effects of the repeal. HMRC plan to issue further guidance to supplement the information provided in the technical note issued at the 2009 pre-Budget report.

Taxation: Overseas Income

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward legislative proposals to allow UK citizens to be taxed on their worldwide income; and if he will make a statement. [319850]

Mr. Timms: Individuals, including UK citizens, who are resident, ordinarily resident and domiciled in the UK are liable to UK tax on their worldwide income. The Government have no plans to introduce legislation to make all UK citizens taxable on their worldwide income.

Valuation Office Agency: Contracts

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 522W, on Valuation Office Agency contracts, how much the Valuation Office Agency spent on each of the listed suppliers in 2008-09. [319644]

Ian Pearson: A list showing the amounts spent by the Valuation Office Agency on the suppliers who provided goods and services to the Valuation Office Agency in 2008-09 is being placed in the Library of the House.

Valuation Office Agency: North East

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff of the Valuation Office Agency worked in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* North Lincolnshire in each year since 1997; and how many such staff were visually impaired in each of those years. [319447]

Ian Pearson: The Valuation Office Agency does not hold staff in post or disability data based upon the North East and North Lincolnshire for each year since 1997.

CABINET OFFICE

Census: Sikhs

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will meet representatives of Sikhs to discuss proposals for the inclusion of a Sikh category in the ethnic data collection within the 2011 National Census. [320257]

Angela E. Smith: The Office for National Statistics consulted widely in establishing the proposed content of the 2011 Census, which included a public consultation and consultation with Sikh representatives. Following consultation, and in accordance with the Census Act 1920, the proposed content was laid before Parliament in "The Census (England and Wales) Order 2009 in October 2009". Parliament approved the Order, which came into force on 10 December. As the content of the 2011 Census is now determined, it is not appropriate for me to meet Sikh representatives to discuss the inclusion of a Sikh category in the ethnicity question within the 2011 Census.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much her Department spent on office refurbishments in each of the last 10 years. [320508]

Angela E. Smith: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Paper

Martin Horwood: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* brands of (i) paper and (ii) paper products (A) her Department and (B) the Prime Minister's Office uses; and what the policy is of each on the procurement of those materials. [320035]

Angela E. Smith: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

Office Depot supplies the Cabinet Office with its paper and paper products.

The majority of the Department's paper usage relates to photocopying and printing, for which Evolve Everyday A4 and A3 80 gsm copier paper is used. These products are 100 per cent. recycled.

The paper for photocopying and printing is ordered centrally; other types of paper products can be bought as required by nominated individuals.

Exports

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the monetary value of goods and services exported from *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the UK was in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [319951]

Ian Lucas: I have been asked to reply.

The figures in the following table for exports of goods have been taken from HM Revenue and Customs Regional Trade Statistics.

		£ billion
	UK	*Scotland*
2004	190.5	11.9
2005	211.8	12.7
2006	243.8	13.5
2007	219.9	13.7
2008	248.8	14.3

Office for National Statistics (ONS) data for UK exports of services for the same years are shown in the following table on a Balance of Payments basis.

	UK (£ billion)
2004	112.9
2005	119.2
2006	134.2
2007	150.6
2008	170.8

The ONS does not produce comparable services trade statistics for countries and regions of the UK: the Scottish Executive publishes some data as part of their Global Connections Survey, available from:

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Economy/Exports

Honours

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the Prime Minister's speech at Britain's Everyday Heroes Book Launch of 24 July 2007, how much has been spent on the advertising campaign relating to the Good Neighbour MBE to date. [318358]

Tessa Jowell: £400,000 including VAT was spent on a regional advertising campaign in 2007-08 to encourage nominations for people who were doing outstanding service in their local community. The campaign focused on four areas: Scotland, the North West, Yorkshire and the Humber; and the West Midlands, which had shown least awareness of the honours system.

Hotels

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1145W, on "Government Departments: Hotels", if she will place in the Library a copy of the summary data on bookings made under the Expotel facility in respect of her Department in 2009. [318309]

Angela E. Smith: The summary data for bookings made through the Cabinet Office's corporate contract with Expotel contain information including their commercial rates which must be treated as commercial in confidence.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood of 3 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 410W, on hotels, which sections of her Department made the 55 bookings for five star hotels; and which hotel was booked in each case. [318327]

Angela E. Smith: Cabinet Office is periodically requested to answer questions which may relate to the involvement of sensitive work streams. In this instance the majority of the bookings are sensitive.

In order to safeguard the effectiveness of both the security arrangements in place, and those involved in such areas, it has been the practice of successive governments not to disclose specific information concerning those involved or its associates.

This is in line with exemptions 1(a) and 7(b) as set out in Part II of the 'Code of Practice on Access to Government Information'.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people have claimed jobseeker's allowance in each quarter since April 2008. [320172]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles monthly counts of the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. Table 1 shows the number of people, resident in the United Kingdom, claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) at the end of each quarter since April 2008.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance resident in the UK Seasonally adjusted: United Kingdom

	Thousand
June 2008	843.3
September 2008	956.7
December 2008	1,175.8
March 2009	1,455.9
June 2009	1,557.8
September 2009	1,626.6
December 2009	1,612.1

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Administrative System

Social Workers: Females

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate she has made of the proportion of people employed in social care who are women. [320654]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for the recent estimate of the proportion of people employed in social care who are women. (320654)

For the period October-December 2009 it was estimated that 1.4 million women were employed in social care in the UK, the proportion of women employed in social care is 80.0 percent.

These estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and are not seasonally adjusted. The social care estimate was derived using the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC2007) codes: 87, Residential care activities and 88, Social work activities without accommodation.

As with any sample survey, the estimates provided are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Trade Unions

Mr. Syms: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many days staff of *(a)* her Department, *(b)* the Charity Commission and *(c)* the Central Office of Information spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available; and what recent estimate she has made of the annual cost to the public purse of such activity. [320619]

Angela E. Smith: The following number of staff days have been allocated as trade union facility time for 2009-10:

(a) The Cabinet Office: 250 days.

(b) The Charity Commission: 188 days.

(c) The Central Office of Information: 55 days.

The annual cost of trade union activity for each organisation is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Unemployment

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were not in employment in each quarter since April 2008. [320175]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were not in employment in each quarter since April 2008. (320175)

The table provided contains estimates of the number of people not in employment. These estimates have been derived from the figures published by the ONS in the monthly Labour Market Statistical Bulletin.

As with any sample survey, the estimates provided are subject to a margin of uncertainty. Indications of the sampling variability of LFS aggregate estimates are provided in the Statistical Bulletin.

Number of people aged 16 and over, not in employment[1] United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted

	Thousand
April to June 2008	19,504
July to September 2008	19,722
October to December 2008	19,895
January to March 2009	20,153
April to June 2009	20,493
July to September 2009	20,599
October to December 2009	20,708

[1] Unemployed people plus those who were economically inactive

Source:

ONS Labour Force Survey

Voluntary Work

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the Prime Minister's speech at Britain's Everyday Heroes Book Launch of 24 July 2007, what steps have been taken to mark the contribution of volunteers on 24 July each year. [318357]

Angela E. Smith: The Government have used the 24 July to recognise and celebrate the efforts of those making a difference in our communities. This has included work with the Council on Social Action as well as voluntary and community groups to support and encourage them to find more ways to celebrate all those acting for social good.

Events to mark the day have included the Catalyst Awards for people using technology to create social change, a reception at 10 Downing street for local heroes across the country and the creation of the National Talent Bank to act as an intermediary between employers who are scaling back working hours and volunteering organisations.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Palace of Westminster

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission for what reason the Carriage Gates exit to the Palace of Westminster was closed on 1 February 2010. [319899]

Nick Harvey: At approximately 5.12 pm on 1 February, a defect with the drop bolt on the Carriage Gates "exit gate" was discovered which left the gate unsecured when in the open position. Due to the risk of the gate swinging closed against a vehicle or person the decision was made to leave the gate in the closed and locked position. Remedial work was carried out overnight and the gate was returned to service. The "in gate" remained in use throughout.

Regional Committees

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the cost has been of the operation of each *(a)* regional grand committee and *(b)* regional select committee since its inception. [319655]

Nick Harvey: The information requested is as follows:

(a) An estimate of the costs for regional grand committees to the end of February 2010 is given in the following table. Costs include hire of accommodation, sound recording, police support, and travel and subsistence for staff. No additional staffing costs were incurred as no extra staff were engaged to work for regional grand committees.

	Cost of regional grand committees (£)
East of England	1,647
East Midlands	2,858
North East	4,238
North West	3,956
South East	4,196
South West	6,850
West Midlands	2,392
Yorkshire and Humber	749
Total	26,886

(b) An estimate of the costs of regional select committees is given in the following table. Costs include staffing, hire of accommodation, transcription of evidence, printing, specialist advisers' and witnesses' expenses, and travel and subsistence for staff. Expenditure on staffing cannot be broken down by region as these committees were supported from a pool of staff in the Department of Chamber and Committee Services.

	Cost of regional select committees up to end of February 2010 (£)
East of England	22
East Midlands	16,787
London	6
North East	24,053
North West	13,904

	Cost of regional select committees up to end of February 2010 (£)
South East	13,125
South West	26,752
West Midlands	23,175
Yorkshire and Humber	3,640
Staffing costs for all regions	311,400
Total	432,865

JUSTICE

Convictions: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Essex have been convicted of offences (i) of domestic burglary and (ii) related to drug offences in each year since 2005. [320573]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of persons found guilty at all courts for domestic burglary and drugs offences in the Essex police force area from 2005 to 2008 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication in the autumn, 2010.

Persons found guilty at all courts for domestic burglary and drugs offences, in the Essex police force area, from 2005 to 2008[1, 2, 3]

				Number
Offence	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008[3]*
Burglary in a dwelling	272	249	292	291
Drugs offences	774	742	570	979
Total	1,046	991	862	1,270

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Plants

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies has spent on pot plants in 2009-10. [319230]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is as follows and covers expenditure for pot plants at the Ministry of Justice headquarters estate, for the period 2009-10.

	£	*Period*
Pot plants	[1]20,162.29	11 months

[1] Excluding VAT.

Note: Of which £10,503.66 is attributable to the Department; and £9,658.63 is attributable to its agencies occupying parts of the HQ estate.

The figures do not include costs from the Tribunal Service, Her Majesty's Court Service or the National Offender Management Service as no separate accounting code is used to record pot plants and to obtain this information would require a manual trawl of each Division at a disproportionate cost.

Driving Offences

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average *(a)* fine and *(b)* length of sentence for an offence of dangerous driving was in each of the last 10 years. [320161]

Claire Ward: The requested information is provided in the following table:

Average fine and average length of sentence for dangerous driving[1], 1998 to 2008

	Average fine amount (£)	*Average custodial sentence length (months)*
1998	353.50	7.7
1999	361.38	7.8
2000	334.72	7.7
2001	366.98	7.9
2002	374.60	8.3
2003	386.79	8.5
2004	451.63	8.7
2005	437.90	8.5
2006	489.89	9.1
2007	530.58	8.9
2008	623.94	9.5

[1] Road Traffic Act 1988 S.2. Dangerous Driving.

[2] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

Notes:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

2. The data have been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. The data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Legal Aid Scheme: Negligence

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on legal aid for medical negligence cases in each of the last 10 years. [320008]

Bridget Prentice: Amount spent net of receipts on civil representation together with the value of claims submitted under legal help, under the clinical negligence category of law, in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table.

£ million

	Civil representation	Legal help
	Expenditure	Value of claims submitted
1999-2000	31.0	
2000-01	34.0	0.7
2001-02	33.7	0.8
2002-03	30.4	1.0
2003-04	36.9	1.0
2004-05	25.8	1.0
2005-06	28.5	0.9
2006-07	25.2	0.8
2007-08	27.3	0.7
2008-09	27.0	0.9

Civil representation includes work carried out under a legal aid certificate in matters that may or do proceed to court. Net expenditure is net of funding that is recovered, including from 'settled cases' where the other side (i.e. the non-legally aided client) agrees to pay costs.

Legal help includes initial legal advice. The figures are only available from January 2000, when contracting was introduced. The value quoted in the table is the value of claims that providers have submitted.

Prisoners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners from *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Ireland and *(c)* other European Economic Area countries serving mandatory life sentences have been released in each of the last five years; [320068]

(2) how many offences of *(a)* murder, *(b)* rape, *(c)* other homicide, *(d)* attempted murder and *(e)* attempted rape had been committed by offenders on End of Custody Licence. [320070]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is currently being collated by officials. I will write to the hon. Member once this work is complete and place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners from *(a)* Ireland and *(b)* other European Economic Area countries with mandatory life sentences are subject to probation supervision with a residential address in the UK. [320069]

Mr. Straw: This information is no longer held centrally and to collate it now would require a manual checking of paper files held in local probation areas, which can be undertaken only at a disproportionate cost.

The life licence lasts for the rest of the offender's life. Therefore, any life sentence prisoner residing in the UK would be subject to immediate recall to custody if he breached the conditions of his life licence.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prosecutions have been brought following the discovery of pornographic or violent images on mobile phones seized from prisoners; [320101]

(2) whether any prisoner has been charged with corrupting a public official during the last 12 months. [320084]

Claire Ward: The Court Proceedings Database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. The Court Proceedings Database does not hold specific information on offences beyond descriptions provided by the statutes under which prosecutions are brought. Information available centrally on defendant's proceeded against does not identify whether the defendant is a prisoner.

Prisons: Mobile Phones

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated research into the means by which illicit mobile phones are brought into prisons. [320096]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has not commissioned specific research into the means by which illicit mobile phones are brought into prisons. However, phones enter prisons by the same routes as other contraband: visitors; over the wall; post and parcels; reception; and remand prisoners and staff.

David Blakey CBE QPM DL, formerly Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary and Chief Constable of West Mercia, was commissioned by the Director General of NOMS, at the Justice Secretary's request, with undertaking a review of the effectiveness of HM Prison Service's measures for disrupting the supply of illicit drugs in prisons.

Mr. Blakey confirmed the five main routes for illicit drugs to get into prisons, and noted that the use of each route and the traffic flowing along it will alter from time to time and from place to place. He recognised the link between the availability of phones in prisons and the smuggling of illicit drugs. NOMS is determined to address the risks that mobile phones present to security and to the safety of the public. Our strategy is to: minimise the number of mobile phones entering prisons; find mobile phones that are smuggled into prisons; and disrupt mobile phones that we cannot find.

Prisons: Overcrowding

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are planned to assist new private prisons to reduce levels of prison overcrowding. [320094]

Maria Eagle: Crowding levels are set and managed carefully by the National Offender Management Service. Prison crowding occurs when the number of prisoners in an accommodation unit exceeds the certified normal capacity (CNA) of that unit. A prison's "certified normal accommodation" (CNA) is therefore its agreed capacity when there is no crowding. A prison's "operational capacity" is the maximum number of prisoners it is allowed to hold over and above CNA taking into account control, security and the proper operation of regimes. In addition operational managers must ensure that each cell used for the confinement of prisoners has sufficient heating, lighting and ventilation and is of adequate size for the number of prisoners to be held in it. Operational capacity in prisons is set by Directors of Offender Management on behalf of the Secretary of State in both publicly managed and contracted establishments.

The Government are committed to increasing substantially the capacity of the prison estate and plans to provide 96,000 places by 2014.

On 27 April 2009 the Justice Secretary announced that the Ministry of Justice plans to build up to five new 1,500 place prisons. The private and third sector will be invited to bid for the construction and operation of these new prisons and places are currently planned to be provided on an uncrowded basis.

Repossession Orders: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court orders for the repossession of homes in West Chelmsford constituency have been issued in each of the last five years. [320352]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the numbers of claims leading to orders being made for the repossession of property by mortgage lenders and landlords in the West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years.

These figures represent the numbers of claims leading to orders being made. This is more accurate than the number of orders, removing the double-counting of instances where a single claim leads to more than one order. It is also a more meaningful measure of the number of homeowners who are subject to court repossession actions.

These figures do not indicate how many properties have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made, while not all court orders result in repossession.

Tables showing the numbers of possession claims leading to an order in each constituency of England and Wales and in each year since 2000 for mortgages and 2003 for landlords have been placed in the Library of the House.

Number of mortgage[1] and landlord[2,3] possession claims leading to orders made[4,5,6,7] for properties in West Chelmsford constituency, 2005-09

	Mortgage possession	Landlord possession
2005	110	110
2006	115	120
2007	125	125
2008	145	150
2009	85	125

Notes:

1. Includes all types of mortgage lenders.
2. Includes all types of landlord whether social or private.
3. Landlord actions include those made under both standard and accelerated procedures. Landlord actions via the accelerated procedure enables the orders to be made solely on the basis of written evidence for shorthold tenancies, when the fixed period of tenancy has come to an end.
4. The number of claims that lead to an order includes all claims in which the first order, whether outright or suspended, is made during the period.
5. The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.
6. Includes outright and suspended orders, the latter being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually require the defendant to pay the current mortgage or rent instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.
7. All figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:
Ministry of Justice.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* disciplinary and *(b)* capability procedures have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in his Department in each of the last five years; how much time on average was taken to complete each type of procedure in each such year; how many and what proportion of his Department's staff were subject to each type of procedure in each such year; and how many and what proportion of each type of procedure resulted in the dismissal of the member of staff. [320625]

Ann McKechin: No disciplinary or capability procedures have been initiated or completed in the Scotland Office in each of the last five years.

Departmental Paper

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* brands of (i) paper and (ii) paper products his Department uses; and what his Department's policy is on the procurement of those materials. [320026]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office participates in a contract, let by the Scottish Government, which prescribes the purchase of paper, and paper products, from recycled sources.

(a) Through this contract, the Scotland Office has both its paper and paper products supplied by Lyreco, with additional ad hoc purchases made through Banner Business Supplies, RR Donnelly and Piccolo Press.

(b) Brands of paper and paper products used by the Scotland Office are Impega, Evolve, Pukka, Black N Red, Sinclair, Avery, Collins, Elba, Xerox, Banner, Kleenex and Scott Performance.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which companies his Department used to provide temporary staff in 2008-09; how many temporary staff were employed in that year; and what the monetary value of contracts with each such company in that year was. [320249]

Ann McKechin: Details of the companies used by the Scotland Office to provide temporary staff in 2008-09 are provided in the following table:

Company	*Number of staff*	*Cost (£)*
Kelly's	1	4,445.57
Eclipse	4	36,914.63
Michael Page International	1	18,971.55

Scottish Government

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* his predecessors and *(c)* other Ministers in his Department had with Scottish Executive Ministers in each month since May 2007. [320375]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Syms: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission how many staff the National Audit Office has appointed who were later discovered to be illegal immigrants since 2005. [320438]

Mr. Alan Williams: The National Audit Office has not appointed any staff since 2005 later discovered to be illegal immigrants.

Trade Unions

Mr. Syms: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission how many days staff of the Public Accounts Commission spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available; and what recent estimate has been made of the annual cost to the public purse of such activity. [320672]

Mr. Alan Williams: No days were spent on trade union activity in 2009.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by what means his Department will ensure any outcomes arising from the Axis 1 subsidies meet the required goals; and how those outcomes will be reported. [318781]

Dan Norris: Responsibility for delivery of Axis 1 of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) lies mainly with the regional development agencies (RDAs). In considering any application for support from the programme, RDAs apply rigorous appraisal processes under which applications are assessed against a range of criteria and the extent to which they meet programme objectives and regional strategic priorities.

As managing authority for the programme, DEFRA retains overall responsibility for oversight of delivery of the programme and the achievement of outcomes. DEFRA maintains regular formal and informal liaison with the RDAs, who report frequently to DEFRA on the delivery of the programme. Regular reports are also made to the RDPE Programme Monitoring Committee, which comprises stakeholder and delivery bodies.

Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness with which the Axis 1 objectives are being met is carried out in accordance with procedures that are set out in EU legislation. These monitoring procedures include submission of an annual report by DEFRA. Programme evaluation is undertaken at the mid-point of the programme period (2007-13) and following the end of the programm period. The programme's mid-term evaluation proces will be carried out during 2010. Some RDAs are als undertaking targeted evaluation activity at a regiona level to help inform programme delivery.

Air Pollution

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State fo Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate h has made of the level of *(a)* particulate and *(b* nitrous oxide emissions in each of the last five years [320340

Jim Fitzpatrick: Estimates of the UK emissions for a range of air pollutants are submitted annually to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution. The following table shows the emission estimates for fine particles ($PM_{2.5}$), coarse particles (PM_{10}), nitrous oxide (N_2O) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) in each of the last five years for which data are available.

Pollutant	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Fine particles, $PM_{2.5}$ (kt)	87	86	86	84	81
Coarse particles, PM_{10} (kt)	141	138	139	137	133
Nitrous oxide, N_2O (kt)	123	119	114	112	109
Nitrogen oxides, NO_x (kt)	1,708	1,682	1,654	1,557	1,403

Animal Feed

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent estimate he has made of the average fishmeal content of organic pig and poultry feed; [319569]

(2) what assessment he has made of the contribution of fishmeal to the nutritional content of organic pig and poultry feed; [319570]

(3) what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* undertaken on the effect on the organic classification of organic pig and poultry feed of the increase in fishmeal content. [319581]

Jim Fitzpatrick: EU rules for organic production (contained in Council Regulation 834/2007 and Commission Regulation 889/2008) require organic livestock to be fed entirely on organically produced feed. However, until 1 January 2012, they also permit 5 per cent. of the feed for organic pigs and poultry to be composed of conventionally produced materials when sufficient organic feed cannot be obtained. This concession currently allows for difficulties with sourcing protein ingredients for organic pig and poultry feed to be accommodated. DEFRA's Advisory Committee on Organic Standards is investigating the role that fishmeal can play, as a protein source for organic pig and poultry feed, when the requirement for these animals to be given 100 per cent. organic feed begins on 1 January 2012.

Animal Welfare

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by what means his Department's health and welfare strategy indicators will be reported on *(a)* where the species of animal concerned is not covered by a sector council established under the England Implementation Group (EIG) and *(b)* following the disbandment of the EIG. [318782]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Arrangements for monitoring the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy are under review following the disbandment of the England Implementation Group. A decision has not yet been made on whether these indicators will continue to be updated in future. The last update of the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy Indicators was in autumn 2008 and is available on the DEFRA website.

Biodiversity

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the collection of data for the 2008 UK Biodiversity Action Plan progress report was completed; and when he expects the report to be published. [318591]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Experts were invited to collect and submit information between September and December 2008. This was used to assess the status of Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species and Habitats. The assessment was published in April 2009, as part of the update to the UK Biodiversity Indicators in Your Pocket. This can be found on the website of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to evaluate progress against the 2010 targets for priority species and habitats under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. [318593]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We are considering carefully with our devolved colleagues and statutory advisers the options for assessing progress against the 2010 targets for priority species and habitats under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Biofuels: Boilers

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to *(a)* control and *(b)* reduce emissions of (i) particulates and (ii) nitrous oxide from biomass boilers of less than 20 megawatts. [320342]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Pollution emissions from biomass boilers of less than 20 Megawatts thermal input are regulated under the Clean Air Act 1993, unless they are burning waste material at greater than 400 kW thermal input, or covered by a permit required under the waste incineration directive (2000/76/EC) depending on the nature of the biomass being burnt.

The existing controls for the remaining appliances arise from the Clean Air Act. Local authorities have the power to approve the grit and dust arrestment equipment fitted to appliances over a certain size as set out in regulation. Within smoke control areas designated by local authorities, only boilers exempt by Parliament can be installed.

In February, the Government launched a consultation[1] on the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) which proposes measures to encourage the uptake of renewable energy including biomass combustion.

Measures are included in the RHI requiring biomass boilers, including boilers less than 20 Megawatt, to meet high standards of emission performance for particles and nitrogen oxides (NO_x), though not for nitrous oxide (N_2O). The effect of these measures will be to reduce the emission of particles from biomass boilers by at least 60 per cent. for the same quantity of heat delivered, compared to the typical performance of current wood fuelled boilers.

[1] http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/policy/renewable_heat/incentive/incentive.aspx

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years. [316465]

Dan Norris: As at 31 December 2009, out of a total of 10,092 staff in DEFRA and its agencies (excluding the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS)), 621 staff have had five or more periods of sickness absence of fewer than five days in two or more of the last three years. This figure has been based on the last three calendar years except for Rural Payments Agency, which has used financial years. CEFAS is implementing a new management information system and its figure is currently unavailable.

DEFRA and its agencies closely monitor sickness absence in line with their sickness absence policies and by benchmarking sick absence rates against Cabinet Office figures for the civil service. Policies and good working practices are in place to reduce frequent short-term sick absences. These include facilitating timely employee access to occupational health advice, medical or wellbeing interventions. Additionally, managers hold return-to-work interviews to discuss employees' reasons for absence, including any work-related issues connected with their absence. Where necessary, action plans will be agreed to improve employees' attendance at work.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1135W, on "Audit Commission: Internet", if he will place in the Library a copy of the latest data on which local authorities collect residual household waste less than once a week according to records held by (a) his Department and (b) the Waste and Resources Action Programme. [319744]

Dan Norris: Data held by DEFRA and the Waste and Resources Action Programme showing which local authorities in England collected residual household waste less than once a week in 2008-09 have been placed in the Library.

Eels

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will assess the effect on small-scale hydroelectric schemes of the obligation to provide eel passes. [319946]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Eel passes will be required wherever eels are present but are prevented from upstream migration; the Environment Agency will undertake an exercise to identify such locations during 2010.

The Environment Agency estimates that approximately 500 schemes (involving between 10-20 eel passes per scheme) will be required. Eel passes generally cost significantly less than those required to enable the migration of salmonids and can be in the order of between £500 to £2,000 per pass. However, where other substantial works are ongoing at the same time, the additional cost of building an eel pass or other easement can be much reduced. A separate assessment of the effect on small-scale hydroelectric schemes of the requirement to provide eel passes has not been made.

Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department plans to amend the Environmental Permitting Regulations; and if he will make a statement. [319525]

Dan Norris: The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 are currently before Parliament and are anticipated to come into force on 6 April 2010. These regulations form part of the second phase of environmental permitting, which will amend and expand the current regime.

Fish: Conservation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will have discussions with ministerial colleagues on the public procurement of *(a)* fish and *(b)* shellfish to increase the proportions procured from sustainable sources. [318899]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My colleague, the Minister for Farming and the Environment has spoken or written to Ministers with responsibility for procurement to encourage them to procure food that has been sourced sustainably which includes the procurement of fish and shellfish. The latest report on food used in Government Departments shows that eight Departments purchased 100 per cent. of their fish from sustainable sources and for a further Department the figure was 99 per cent. We are also considering the case for introducing a minimum mandatory buying standard for central Government for food and catering, including for the procurement of seafood from sustainable sources.

Fisheries

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State fo Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* undertaken on the effects on aquatic reefs and plants from trawling; and if he will make a statement. [319571]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA does not currently fund any research aimed specifically at examining the damage caused by trawling on aquatic reefs and plants. Earlier research has however helped to establish the extent to which fishing practices such as trawling had on the wider benthic community.

This early work has enabled us to be better informed about how we might help protect sensitive habitats such as reefs. DEFRA is currently funding a research project in Lyme Bay to examine how the seabed recovers within a Marine Protected Area. No scallop dredging or bottom trawling is allowed and the project aims to monitor the effects of the MPA, including the recovery of benthic communities.

Reefs are one of the habitats listed for which Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are required to be designated under the EC habitats directive. Between 2004 and 2009 the Joint Nature Conservation Committee carried out a number of surveys in UK offshore waters to identify reef sites suitable for SAC designation. Details of these surveys can be found at:

http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4544

To date 37 SACs with reef as a qualifying habitat have been designated, with further sites subject to consultation or further analysis of data. By the end of 2012 it is estimated that around 36 per cent. of the UK reef habitat will be protected by European designations.

You will be interested to note that Charting Progress 2, which is due to be published in July 2010, has examined both the state and impact from pressures such as fishing on different components of the marine ecosystem, within the marine environment, to provide an overall assessment of the UK's seas.

Further details of DEFRA's current research programme can be found by following this link:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/

and carrying out a word search (for example 'fisheries').

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of non-target species accidentally caught as a result of industrial fishing techniques in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [319572]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Industrial fishing is the term applied to fishing activity where the catch is intended for processing into fish meal and oil rather than for human consumption. Industrial fishing uses smaller meshed nets than human consumption fisheries as they are targeting fish which are small even when fully grown and this will inevitably lead to the capture of small, often immature, individuals of other species.

In European waters, industrial fishing is undertaken for blue whiting, Norway pout, sandeel and sprat. The Norway pout and sandeel fisheries are exclusively industrial and are conducted in the North sea and Skagerrak, while the blue whiting fishery is only partly industrial and considerably more geographically widespread.

Fish stocks in EU waters are assessed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). There are linkages between sandeel fishing and other species through by-catch, although scientific advice indicates that by-catches of prime human consumption species within the sandeel fishery are relatively small compared to the fisheries for human consumption.

ICES annually calculates industrial by-catches; i.e. landings of non-target species, for whiting and haddock in the North sea. Landings of North sea whiting from the industrial fisheries were 1,230 tonnes and 1,020 tonnes in 2007 and 2008, respectively. Landings of North sea haddock from the industrial fisheries were 48 tonnes and 199 tonnes in 2007 and 2008, respectively.

ICES has yet to analyse the data for 2009 and hence results will not be available until later in 2010.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* undertaken on the effect on the level of fish stocks of industrial fishing techniques; and if he will make a statement. [319573]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information is as follows:

(a) My Department and the Scottish Executive have, in the past, commissioned research into industrial fishing. Although there are currently no specific projects being undertaken, the UK Government continue to support work on sandeels and their predators.

Most recently, a major study by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science which investigated the direct and indirect impacts of the sandeel fishery off the coast of eastern England was completed in March 2007. In addition, the Scottish Executive supported an EU-funded project: 'Interactions Between the Marine Environment, Predator Implications for Sustainable Sandeel Fisheries', which concluded before 2007.

(b) On the effect on the level of fish stocks of industrial fishing techniques, the UK, through the Scottish Government continues to support work on sandeels and their predators, through monitoring of the north-east UK area closure. Local studies of cod, haddock and whiting predation on sandeels before and after the closure was introduced in 2000, found no evidence of an effect, although the reduction in fishing mortality did lead to an increase in the abundance of age one and older sandeels. The lack of a fishing effect probably had more to do with the difference in the age of sandeel taken by these predators and the fishery.

The cod, haddock and whiting in this study mostly fed on young sandeels of the year, whereas the fishery targeted age one and older sandeels. The local abundance of cod and haddock in the study-region reflected wider North sea wide trends, suggesting that local conditions were not determining abundance. Had there been significant numbers of large cod and haddock in the region, then competition between the sandeel fishery and these species may have been more important, since the size and age of sandeels taken is limited by predator size.

The UK will continue to monitor industrial fisheries in EU waters.

Fuel Oil: Recycling

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on encouraging the re-use of waste oils. [319526]

Dan Norris: DEFRA's policies on waste oils are set out in Waste Strategy for England 2007. We are currently considering the responses to the stage one consultation on the transposition of the revised Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), including the provisions in article 21 on waste oils.

Incinerators

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy on mass-burn incineration of household waste is. [319619]

Dan Norris: Government policy is to manage waste as far up the waste hierarchy as possible—with energy from waste ranking higher than landfill but below waste prevention, re-use, and recycling. The Government's view of incineration and similar technologies is that they form just one among several approaches, all of which are needed for sustainable and effective waste management.

It is recognised that there will always be some waste streams that cannot be re-used, recycled or composted and recovering energy from that waste, including by incineration, results in less greenhouse gas emissions compared to the alternative of landfill. Producing energy from this waste, which would otherwise have gone to landfill, not only contributes to reducing carbon emissions, but also counts towards our renewable energy targets by displacing fossil fuel power generation.

The choice in technology needs to reflect local circumstances, with reference to the relevant waste strategies and plans, so that proposed waste incineration plants are of an appropriate type and scale and do not prejudice the achievement of local, regional or national waste management targets.

Moorland: Environment Protection

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to protect wildlife in areas of heather moorland. [320338]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Natural England is taking action to protect and manage heather moorland habitats and is also taking additional steps to recover threatened species. A total of 354,000 hectares of heather moorland (comprising blanket bog and upland heathlands) have been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). On 1 March 2010, 91 per cent. of these SSSIs were in favourable or recovering condition (up from about 57 per cent. in September 2006). 95 per cent. of eligible heather moorland is under agri-environment agreement.

In addition, about 40 heather moorland species have been listed as species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Many of these species, including hen harrier, black grouse and juniper, benefit from targeted recovery plans.

Nanotechnology

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many entries have been registered under the voluntary reporting scheme for nanomaterials since its inception. [319921]

Dan Norris: A trial of the UK's voluntary reporting scheme for engineered nanomaterials was carried out between September 2006 and September 2008. DEFRA received 13 submissions to the scheme during this period. Although the scheme has now officially closed submissions are still accepted.

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Government plan to bring forward proposals for a mandatory reporting scheme for nanomaterials used in consumer products. [319922]

Dan Norris: As stated in the Government's June 2009 response to the Royal Commission for Environmental Pollution's December 2008 Report "Novel Materials in the Environment: The Case of Nanotechnology", we recognise that, given increasing interest in this area, additional work to boost our understanding is required. Work is currently ongoing to define in more detail how any successor to the voluntary reporting scheme could effectively be introduced, including whether or not it should be mandatory.

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Government plan to publish its Nanotechnology Strategy. [319923]

Dan Norris: The Government intend to publish their Nanotechnologies Strategy during March 2010.

Origin Marking: Israel

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the European Court of Justice's ruling on goods from Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank on his Department's policies on food imports. [320608]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The European Court of Justice's recent ruling in the case of C-386/08 (Brita-Gmbh) concerned the procedures which a EU member state's customs authority should follow in a case where imported goods are shown as being of Israeli origin, and preferential customs tariff treatment is claimed under the EC-Israel Association Agreement, but where there is reason to suppose that the goods in question did in fact originate in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs).

This ruling will have no effect on DEFRA's policies on food imports originating in the OPTs; since the Court's ruling confirms the correctness of the procedures that are already operated in the UK by HM Revenue and Customs. There are no inconsistencies between the Court's ruling and the technical guidance concerning the labelling of produce grown in the OPTs that was issued by DEFRA on 10 December 2009.

Renewable Energy: Fuel Oil

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with representatives of the waste oil regeneration industry; and if he will make a statement. [319845]

Dan Norris: We continue to maintain regular contact with the waste oil industry on a variety of issues affecting the management of waste oil.

Representatives of the waste oil processing industry are members of the Stakeholder Group relating to the transposition of the revised Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), including the provisions in Article 4 on the waste hierarchy and Article 21 on waste oils. They were also involved in the Hazardous Waste Steering Group, which helped advise on proposals for a Strategy for Hazardous Waste Management in England.

The Hazardous Waste Steering Group and the Waste Framework Stakeholder Group last met on 29 September and 11 November 2009 respectively.

Renewable Energy: Waste

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions the joint working group on energy from waste policy plans to hold on regulatory barriers to energy from waste deployment; [319330]

(2) who has attended each meeting of the joint working group on energy from waste policy; [319331]

(3) which Departments have officials on the joint working group on energy from waste policy. [319332]

Dan Norris: The Energy from Waste Project will consider the main factors affecting the deliverability of energy from waste plant. The project includes five workstreams on:

(i) Potential volumes of waste that could be used to produce energy

(ii) Technology choice

(iii) Location and scale of plants, including planning considerations

(iv) Financial issues affecting delivery of energy from waste plant

(v) Communications.

The Energy from Waste Project Board held its first meeting on 27 January, 2010 with officials from the following Government Departments and agencies attending:

DEFRA

Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)

Department for Transport (DfT)

Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG)

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)

The Environment Agency.

The Energy from Waste Project Board includes officials from the following Government Departments:

DEFRA

DECC

DfT

CLG

BIS

HM Treasury.

River Severn

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of the dam on the River Severn at Shrewsbury on the flow of the River Severn and its tributaries in Montgomeryshire; and if he will make a statement. [320167]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency, in conjunction with Shropshire council, has assessed the potential benefits of combining a proposed road scheme with a flood storage area and dam in Shrewsbury to reduce flood risk along the River Severn.

The aim was to discover whether the combination of both schemes could make the flood storage area and dam more viable. The work carried out has shown that there are no financial savings in having a combined scheme and there are no current plans to progress the construction of a dam in Shrewsbury.

A hydraulic river model was constructed as part of this work and a copy of the report has been placed in the Library of the House.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish the draft statement setting out the principles of an ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009; and if he will make a statement. [319435]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The written statement to fulfil the requirement in Section 123(6) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 will be laid before Parliament by the Secretary of State on 10 or 11 March 2010.

The statement will set out the principles and other matters that Government will follow when designating a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). They include: the seven principles of ecological coherence which will underpin the network design; Government's commitment to an ecologically coherent network of MPAs by 2012; social and economic considerations; protection levels for MPAs including sites to allow recovery of damaged or diminished features; and links with other legislation such as the marine strategy framework directive.

The Government believe the ecologically coherent network of MPAs created through the Act will represent a significant step towards our vision for clean healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas, and increase resilience to climate change.

Slaughterhouses

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the investigations conducted by Animal Aid into practices at slaughterhouses; and if he will take steps to ensure that those establishments adhere to high animal welfare practice standards. [320405]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Meat Hygiene Service (MHS), an Executive agency of the Food Standards Agency, enforces the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 in slaughterhouses on behalf of DEFRA. Animal cruelty within a slaughterhouse is not tolerated by the MHS who take appropriate enforcement action if there are breaches of animal welfare legislation.

Animal Aid passed to the MHS undercover footage taken in four abattoirs during 2009, where CCTV footage appeared to show evidence of animal cruelty by slaughterers at two slaughterhouses. In one of the slaughterhouses a slaughterer has had his licence revoked and the case has been referred for prosecution along with the operator of the plant. In the second two, slaughterers have had their licences revoked and a third slaughterer has been suspended. The case has been referred for investigation with a view to prosecution.

Trees: Urban Areas

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate the Forestry Commission has made of the *(a)* initial and *(b)* maintenance cost of planting and maintenance of an urban tree. [319618]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Forestry Commission in England has made an estimate of the cost of planting a tree in an urban site in London as part of the London Trees and Woodlands Grant Scheme. This varies from between £250 for planting in a grass verge to £450 for planting in paved areas. Protective guarding of a tree can add £130. Maintaining a tree for the first three years, which includes watering, general maintenance and formative pruning is estimated at £300.

Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in which Government Office regions *(a)* regional waste awareness initiatives and *(b)* waste prevention networks are in operation; and what funding has been provided for such activity in each region in the latest period for which figures are available. [319622]

Dan Norris: Waste awareness and prevention initiatives run in each Government office region. These vary widely across the country from those run solely for local authorities to arrangements covering a broader range of partners; the funding arrangement are equally varied. More details are available from individual Government offices.

The Government-funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) delivers the national 'Love Food Hate Waste' campaign. Information and resources are available for use by local government at a regional and local level as part of this campaign. In addition WRAP has provided advisory support to a number of regional waste prevention initiatives through its local authority support programme.

Waste Disposal: EC Action

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish the final version of the End of Waste Protocol; and if he will make a statement. [319086]

Dan Norris: On 23 and 26 November 2009 the European Commission and Austria respectively commented under Article 8(2) of the Technical Standards Directive on the draft end-of-waste protocol for fuel produced from waste lubricating oil that the UK notified under Article 8(1) of the directive. The UK responded to both sets of comments on 15 February 2010. In doing so, it was confirmed that the UK intended to adopt the end-of-waste protocol on the basis notified to the Commission on 27 August 2009 and that the UK would communicate the definitive text to the Commission in compliance with Article 8(3) of the directive. The Environment Agency expects to publish the definitive text before the end of March 2010.

Water Charges: Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to his Department's press release of 14 July 2009, on surface water draining charges, what system of surface water charging for voluntary groups is in operation in each water company area. [318332]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Four of the 10 water and sewerage companies in England and Wales—Northumbrian Water, Severn Trent Water, United Utilities and Yorkshire Water—charge non-household customers for surface water drainage according to impermeable site area. The remaining six—Anglian Water, Southern Water, South West Water, Thames Water, Welsh Water and Wessex Water—charge for surface water drainage according to the rateable value of a premises and/or include the charge in their standing charges and/or volumetric charges.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effect on airline profits on the inclusion of aviation in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. [320406]

Paul Clark: A review of the available evidence found that, while some studies were suggesting that airlines could potentially pass on 100 per cent. of the costs of EU ETS allowances to passengers, other studies suggested that the level of cost passed on would depend on a number of factors, such as the level of competition faced on individual routes.

The impact on airline profits in practice will only become apparent after aviation has joined the EU ETS from 2012.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the level of *(a)* UK and *(b)* EU carbon emissions from aviation in (i) 2004, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2009; and what estimate he has made of each such level in (A) 2012 and (B) 2015. [320576]

Paul Clark: UK aviation carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions in 2004 and 2006 can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate_change/gg_emissions/uk_emissions/2008_final/2008_final.aspx

The source of the data is AEA/Department of Energy and Climate Chance (DECC).

The following table shows the Department's latest forecasts for total CO_2 emissions from all flights departing from UK airports in 2009, 2012 and 2015.

	Total CO_2 (million tonnes)
2009	39.2
2012	43.5
2015	46.1

Notes:

1. Data are for UK departures only (both international and domestic).

2. These forecasts refer to the central demand scenario and capacity scenario s12s2, as presented in UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts, January 2009.

3. These CO_2 forecasts include freight, APU and a residual adjustment to ensure consistency with the DECC outturn estimate.

The Department does not collect or forecast EU level CO_2 emissions data. Emissions inventories for other EU countries are available on the UNFCCC website. This can be found at:

http://unfccc.int/national_reports/items/1408.php

Capita Group

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on how many occasions Capita Group plc tendered for contracts let by his Department in each of the last five years; how many such tenders were successful; how much his Department paid to Capita Group plc for the execution of contracts in each such year; how many contracts which terminate after 2010 Capita Group plc hold with his Department; and what the monetary value is of all outstanding contracts between his Department and Capita Group plc. [303160]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold centrally information relating to tendering activity, contracts awarded and the values of such contracts and this could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

However, following a search across the Department and its Executive agencies, it is known that Capita Group plc tendered and were awarded the following contracts/framework agreements:

	Number of tenders	*Number of contracts awarded*
2005	4	2
2006	10	8
2007	12	8
2008	12	8
2009	7	5

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent on office refurbishments in each year since its inception. [320510]

Chris Mole: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many designs for its website his Department has commissioned since 2005. [318642]

Chris Mole: The Department last commissioned a new design for its corporate website:

www.dft.gov.uk

in 2005. The design work was commissioned as part of a larger project to implement a new Content Management System.

Departmental Legal Costs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent on external legal advice in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [318798]

Chris Mole: In the past two financial years the Department for Transport (including its agencies) has spent the following on external legal services:

2007-08: £3,297,415.19

2008-09: £12,410,668.11

The reason for the significant difference in spend from 2007-08 to 2008-09 is due to change to the Department's accounting system in 2008 which culminated in some historical data not being available. Recovery of this data could have been obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Paper

Martin Horwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* brands of (i) paper and (ii) paper products his Department uses; and what his Department's policy is on the procurement of those materials. [320025]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport and its Executive Agencies use the following suppliers and brands of paper and paper products:

Suppliers:

Antalis, Banner Business Services, Howard Smith Paper, James McNaughton, Premier Paper Group, Robert Home Group, Taylor Brothers, The Paper Company, Unicorn Office Products, United and Viking Direct

Brands of office paper for printing and copying:

Banner, EP4, Evolve, Premier Paper, Securi Monde, Steinbeis, Xerox

Brands of paper for printed publications:

9 Lives, Cacoon, Green Coat, Evolution, Revive.

Brands of paper products:

3M, 5 star, Adare, Avery, Basildon Bond, Cambridge, Conqueror, FT Print, Graffico, HP, Jiffy, Kleenex, MBA, New Guardian, Niceday, NP, Office Depot, Oxford, Paragon, Post-it, Q connect, RR Donnelly, Sasco, SMI, Stralfors, Taylor Brothers, Unicorn Office, Unique and Viking

The Department conducts its procurement in accordance with UK Government's value for money policies and principles, utilising collaborative arrangements where these are available and in accordance with the legal and regulatory framework. Where possible, the Department purchases recycled products that meet the current Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) 'Buy Sustainable Quick Wins' guidance.

Directly Operated Railways and East Coast Main Line Company

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how much has been paid by *(a)* and *(b)* East Coast Trains for the use of office space in his Department since July 2009; [319598]

(2) for how long he expects to let office space in his Department to *(a)* Directly Operated Railways and *(b)* East Coast Trains. [319600]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 1 March 2010]*: From the 6 May, Directly Operated Railways will move from Department for Transport premises to offices in Kemble Street, London. In relation to the period up to this date, the value of use of office space in the Department for Transport was taken into account when Directly Operated Railways' grant was set on creation.

In relation to East Coast I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 666W.

Driving Tests: Motorcycles

Mark Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Transport what casual sites for motorcycle testing have been brought into use since April 2009; and what the cost was of making each such site suitable for motorcycle testing. [320266]

Paul Clark: No casual sites have been brought into use since April 2009. There were 16 Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) and six casual sites available to use when the new motorcycling test was implemented on 27 April 2009. Of these sites, 13 VOSA and four casual sites remain operational with five now having been replaced by permanent multi-purpose test centres (MPTCs).

Other VOSA and casual sites will be replaced as permanent MPTCs become operational locally.

The total cost of preparing and maintaining the VOSA and casual sites for use for module one motorcycle testing is forecast to be £2.5 million.

Driving: Licensing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many people *(a)* over and (b) under retirement age in each police force area have had their driving licence withdrawn in each of the last five years. [320130]

Paul Clark: The information requested is not readily available and would incur disproportionate costs to gather. However, the following table provides the number of people *(a)* over and *(b)* at or below 65, whose driving licence has been withdrawn for the reasons quoted.

	Medically withdrawn/refused		*Disqualified*		*Revoked*		*Total*	
	(a)	*(b)*	*(a)*	*(b)*	*(a)*	*(b)*	*(a)*	*(b)*
2009	9,979	15,632	2,658	132,945	740	73,386	13,377	221,963
2008	9,328	12,718	3,297	153,787	805	88,230	13,430	254,735
2007	8,833	11,038	3,894	168,954	640	71,916	13,367	251,908
2006	7,757	9,588	4,152	174,695	436	61,692	12,345	245,975
2005	6,070	7,351	2,534	79,388	306	33,311	8,910	120,050

Exhaust Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the total carbon dioxide emissions from shipping in the UK in the last 10 years; and what projection he has made of such emissions from shipping in the UK in the next *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20 and *(c)* 50 years. [317027]

Mr. Khan: Shipping carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions for the last 10 years can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate_change/gg_emissions/uk_emissions/2008_final/2008_final.aspx

The source of the data is AEA/Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

Forecasts of carbon dioxide emissions from UK domestic shipping in 2010, 2015, 2020 and 2022 were included in the Department for Transport's "Carbon Pathways Analysis" report. This report is available to download from the Department's website at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/analysis.pdf

Projections of reportable carbon dioxide emissions from international shipping for all years between now and 2022 were included in HM Treasury's "Building a low-carbon economy" report. This report is available from the HM Treasury website at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_carbon_budgets_736.pdf

Grimsby

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Great Grimsby constituency, the effects of his Department's policies on that constituency since 1997. [320186]

Mr. Khan: Our policies and legislation since 1997 have provided a new framework benefiting all local transport authorities. The framework gives greater certainty of funding, while encouraging more strategic transport planning with local consultation, and increasing local flexibility and discretion over resources. It has been accompanied by a significant increase in capital funding: support from the Department for transport investment in North East Lincolnshire, within which transport authority Great Grimsby falls, has more than doubled over the last decade.

Investment in North East Lincolnshire council's local transport plan has delivered a number of improvements to the quality, safety and accessibility of the local transport network. Between 2004 and 2008, bus patronage per head of population increased by 19 per cent. and the number of people killed or seriously injured on the local highway network decreased by 13 per cent. in the period 2001-07.

In 2002, North East Lincolnshire council received a total of £719,000 from the Department's Urban and Rural Bus Challenge funds to establish the Phone 'n' Ride community travel initiative. Phone 'n' Ride is a demand-responsive bus service for those members of the community who have difficulty accessing employment, education, healthcare and leisure services due to a lack of transport.

In 2005, North East Lincolnshire council submitted a successful bid to the Department for 'Kickstart' revenue funding of improvements to the Grimsby and Cleethorpes bus network. The £523,000 award facilitated the introduction of high-frequency services on routes 13 and 14, linking the area's main residential estates with Grimsby and Cleethorpes town centres. It was accompanied by an investment of almost £2 million by Stagecoach in 23 new low-floor buses for the service.

Following a successful bid by North East Lincolnshire council and First TransPennine Express, it was announced in April 2006 that Grimsby Town station would receive £53,000 to improve disabled access and facilities. The improvements, funded as part of the Department's Access for All Strategy, include an enlarged waiting room, improved flooring and lighting, and a new ticket window.

Local Government: Statistics

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what performance *(a)* indicators and *(b)* datasets outside the National Indicator Set local authorities are regularly required to provide to his Department. [319613]

Mr. Khan: None.

M40: Repairs and Maintenance

Tony Baldry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the implementation of his Department's policy on the North West Bicester eco-town on the timing of the allocation of funding for improvement made by the Highways Agency on junction 9 of the M40 motorway. [318982]

Chris Mole: I recognise that current capacity constraints at junction 9 are directly inhibiting the wider potential for growth within the Bicester area.

I wrote to the leader of Oxfordshire county council in November 2009 confirming that the Highways Agency is committed to an interim scheme, commencing in the spring of 2010-11, to improve the movement of traffic onto the A34 southbound from the M40 southbound at junction 9. The Department for Transport remains committed to deliver the proposed medium-term solution subject to the outcome of any forthcoming spending review.

My officials are working closely with Cherwell district council and Oxfordshire county council in developing the transport aspects of their proposals and a planning application is expected to be submitted shortly. I expect that priority will be given to more sustainable transport options, as set out in the Planning Policy Statement on eco-towns published in July 2009, which is consistent with the key aims set out in "Developing a Sustainable Transport System".

Motorways: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many accidents have taken place between motorway junctions where there is hard shoulder running in each of the last five years. [319048]

Chris Mole: Hard shoulder running was introduced on the M42 between J3A and J7 on 12 September 2006 and normally operates at peak travel times or when there is an incident.

The accident data for the M42 J3a to 7 cover all personal injury accidents for the period to the end of 2008 and are as follows:

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
M42 J3a-J4	11	9	4	4	10
M42 J4-J5	15	10	12	13	14
M42 J5-J6	18	23	20	17	9
M42 J6-J7	12	7	3	6	6
Total	56	49	39	40	39

More significantly the rate of personal injury accidents has dropped from 5.1 per month to 1.8 since the implementation of this scheme.

Motorways: Road Traffic

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of hard shoulder running in the latest period for which figures are available. [319049]

Chris Mole: The estimated cost to the Highways Agency of hard shoulder running between Junctions 3a and 7 on the M42 is associated with the following four main areas of additional activity and cost.

Additional advanced motorway indicators over the hard shoulder—estimated cost of annual maintenance is £25,000.

Fixed CCTV cameras to monitor the hard shoulder—estimated costs of annual maintenance is £80,000.

Control room staff to open, close and monitor use of hard shoulder running—estimated annual cost is £38,000.

Additional traffic officer patrols to undertake pre-opening inspections of the hard shoulder and manage incidents—estimated annual cost of staff and vehicles is £66,000.

There are several additional areas for which it is not possible to disaggregate costs including power, sweeping and salting of the emergency refuge areas. These costs are considered to be negligible.

Motorways: Standards

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average delay in minutes has been between motorway junctions where there is hard shoulder running in each of the last five years. [319047]

Chris Mole: Hard shoulder running was introduced on the M42 between Junction 3A and Junction 7 on 12 September 2006 and normally operates at peak travel times or when there is an incident.

In measuring delay the Highways Agency defines a free flow theoretical reference speed. For the M42, this is approximately 66 mph. Delay is measured as the actual measured speed of traffic compared to this reference speed and is quoted as the delay per 10 vehicle kms.

The following table shows the results for the M42 Junctions 3A to 7 for the last five years.

Delay per 10 vehicle km

					Minutes
	2005 total	2006 total	2007 total	2008 total	2009 total
M42 between M42 J3A and M42 J3 (LM503)	0.33	0.42	0.35	0.44	0.43
M42 between M42 J3 and M42 J3A (LM504)	0.53	0.67	0.51	0.64	0.42
M42 between M42 J5 and M42 J4 (LM505)	1.00	1.36	1.58	1.33	1.04
M42 between M42 J4 and M42 J5 (LM506)	1.38	1.65	1.38	1.46	1.14
M42 between M42 J6 and M42 J5 (LM507)	1.26	1.56	1.67	1.38	1.41
M42 between M42 J5 and M42 J6 (LM508)	1.31	1.56	1.43	1.32	1.06
M42 between M42 J7 and M42 J6 (LM509)	1.58	1.69	1.54	1.46	1.56
M42 between M42 J6 and M42 J7 (LM510)	1.32	1.47	1.33	1.31	1.03

The primary objective of managed motorway schemes is to improve journey time reliability. In the case of the M42 this has improved by 22 per cent. since the implementation of the scheme.

Official Engagements

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what ministerial engagements the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport has planned on each day until 6 May. [319008]

Chris Mole: I have accepted speaking engagements on the 9 March and 22 March. It is not usual practice to release details of future engagements other than confirmed speaking engagements.

Petrol: Ethanol

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will require all petrol containing ethanol to be labelled prominently as such at the fuel pump. [319898]

Mr. Khan: Fuel pumps dispensing petrol containing more than 5 per cent. biofuel (including ethanol) are required to be labelled "Not suitable for all vehicles: consult vehicle manufacturer before use" by virtue of the Biofuel (Labelling) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004 No 3349). Where petrol contains more than 10 per cent. ethanol, an additional label indicating this will be required from 5 December 2010, by virtue of a forthcoming amendment to the 2004 Regulations, implementing a requirement of the EU renewable energy directive (2009/28/EC).

Railways: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what progress has been made on reducing overcrowding on passenger rail services from stations in the London borough of Bexley to London terminals. [319471]

Chris Mole: Southeastern has carried out a survey of crowding on trains and are currently looking at measures to address crowding on specific services.

Railways: Poole

Mr. Syms: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much money his Department has spent on railway *(a)* track and *(b)* station improvements in Poole constituency in each year since 1997. [320391]

Chris Mole: This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his questions:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

Railways: Standards

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what information his Department holds on the number of trains which were *(a)* cancelled and *(b)* delayed by each train operating company in each of the last five years; and how many of those cancellations occurred on (i) peak, (ii) weekday off-peak and (iii) weekend services. [319045]

Chris Mole: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 880-82W, showing the number of trains cancelled and the number of trains arriving late at destination.

Data on the number of trains which may have suffered a delay en route as opposed to arriving late at destination, are not held by the Department for Transport.

Data are held recording the number of cancellations in peak hours for London and South East operators, and are given in the following table. The remaining data requested are not held by the Department.

	Peak cancellations				
Train operating company	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
c2c	328	268	278	222	219
Chiltern Railways	241	278	240	185	192
First Capital Connect	983	1,069	962	773	1,067
First Great Western	245	238	316	330	260
London Midland	106	63	109	76	276
London Overground	90	57	47	49	37
National Express East Anglia	805	991	1,260	974	897
South West Trains	881	877	945	582	981
Southeastern	1,246	1,089	986	953	1,431
Southern	1,108	911	801	652	938

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Health in 2010 on the salt and grit supplies held by hospitals. [316891]

Mr. Khan: As part of the collective response by the Government to the severe weather, a number of discussions have been held with ministerial colleagues during Cabinet level meetings convened on this matter.

Furthermore, the salt suppliers are holding salt for distribution to non-highway users. They determine priorities for distributing this, separately from the Salt Cell. However, non-highway salt users may seek mutual aid arrangements with local authorities and others if they wish. In critical cases, where these arrangements are not working, health organisations are encouraged to raise the issue with the Department of Health.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what information his Department holds on the quantity of salt held by each local authority; and for which local authorities his Department holds no up-to-date information. [319614]

Mr. Khan: An updated table has been placed in the Libraries of the House, which shows how many tonnes of salt local authorities estimate they have available, according to the local authority salt audit returns the Department for Transport had received at 10 a.m. on 25 February.

These figures provide a snapshot of one day and may not fully reflect the regional weather, salt delivery dates, weather preparedness or distribution practices.

Waterloo Station

Susan Kramer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will instruct BRB (Residuary) Ltd. to ensure that no commercial development takes place under the platforms of Waterloo International Terminal which would significantly delay bringing into use the former Eurostar platforms at Waterloo for domestic passengers. [319030]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is working closely with BRB (Residuary) Ltd. to ensure that the timing of any commercial development of the space below the platforms at Waterloo International station does not adversely impact upon any plans to bring the platforms into use for domestic passengers.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether any commercial development is permitted to take place under the former Eurostar platforms at Waterloo; and whether Network Rail has permitted development rights to integrate the platforms into use for domestic passengers. [319031]

Chris Mole: Any commercial development under the former Eurostar platforms at Waterloo would be subject to planning permission from the local authority (LB Lambeth).

Network Rail does not enjoy permitted development rights to integrate the platforms into use for domestic passengers as Waterloo International terminal is owned by British Railways Board (Residual) Limited.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the likely timetable for converting the former Waterloo International platforms for use for domestic passengers. [319259]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is currently in discussion with the British Railways Board (Residuary) Limited, Network Rail and Stagecoach South West Trains to establish what would be the most cost-effective way to integrate Waterloo International terminal into the domestic station that maximises benefits for the short, medium and long term.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Fixed Penalties

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many penalty notices for disorder were issued to persons aged 16 and over for an offence of being drunk and disorderly in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [315063]

Alan Johnson: The number of persons issued with a penalty notice for disorder for drunk and disorderly related offences in England and Wales, from 2004 to 2008 is provided in the following table.

Number of persons issued with a penalty notice for disorder for drunk and disorderly related offences in England and Wales, from 2004 to 2008[1, 2, 3]

Offences		*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Drunk and disorderly offences	Penalty notices for disorder	29,106	40,176	46,268	49,062	45,849

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the more severe.

[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Being found drunk in a highway or other Public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises.
Licensing Act 1872 Sec 12.
Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour.
Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec 91.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice
Ref: IOS 60-10

Arrests: Young People

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people aged *(a)* under 10, *(b)* 10 to 12, *(c)* 13 to 15 and *(d)* 16 to 18 years old have been arrested for each offence in each police force area in each year since 1997; [319823]

(2) how many people aged *(a)* under 18, *(b)* 18 to 29, *(c)* 30 to 59 and *(d)* over 60 years old have been arrested for each category of offence by each police force in each year since 1997. [319079]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 1 March 2010]*: The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. The data are also broken down by age groups which are (a) aged under 10, (b) aged 10-17, (c) aged 18-20, (d) aged 21 and over, (e) age unknown and so we can only provide data in these age groups and not that which is requested.

The data requested covering the period from 2000-01 to 2007-08 have been placed in the House Library. Data prior to 2000-01 are not available.

Data for 2008-09 are due to be published in early April 2009-10.

Asylum: Newcastle upon Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the merits of the establishment of an asylum seeker reception centre in Newcastle upon Tyne; and what discussions he has had with the Strategic Migration Partnership and Newcastle-upon-Tyne City Council on such a proposal. [318820]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency is proposing to open initial accommodation for asylum seekers in the North East. Agency staff discussed this proposal with its key partners in the North East in April 2009. These discussions included both the North East Strategic Migration Partnership and the North East Consortium for Asylum Support Services. In addition, the UK Border Agency's regional director for the North East, Yorkshire and the Humber discussed the proposal with the chief executive, Newcastle city council when they met on 22 February.

UKBA launched a formal competition to provide initial accommodation in the North East with its target providers at the end of December 2009. An invitation to bid was sent to the North East Consortium for Asylum Support Services and the North East Strategic Migration Partnership was notified of the competition in January 2010.

Departmental Grants

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which faith-based organisations his Department has made grants in each of the last five years; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* purpose of the grant was in each case. [317768]

Alan Johnson: The Home Office funds a wide range of organisations to deliver outcomes related to Home Office objectives. Although it is not always possible to tell from the information available to us whether organisations would regard themselves as faith-based, the information set out in the table is based on those organisations where it is clear they are, and consider themselves to be, faith-based.

The Department has made the following payments to faith-based organisations within the last five years:

Recipient	*Monetary value* *Year*	*£*	*Purpose*
Street Pastors	2006-07	10,000	Diversionary and other community-based projects that work with young people at risk of involvement in gangs and the use of weapons
	2007-08	5,000	
Peace Alliance	2006-07	10,000	London Week of Peace
	2007-08	75,000	
	2008-09	75,000	
Christian Police Association	2004-05	5,000	General funding towards association's aims and objectives (grant in Aid funding)
	2009-10	10,000	
National Association of Muslim Police	2008-09	45,000	General funding towards association's aims and objectives (grant in Aid funding)
	2009-10	45,000	
St. Luke's Parochial Trust	2009-10	54,000	Target hardening homes against burglary in Camden (under Securing Homes Action Against Burglary (SHAAB) grant stream)
Peterborough Salvation Army	2009-10	21,000	Target hardening homes against burglary in Peterborough (under Securing Homes Action Against Burglary (SHAAB) grant stream)

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many designs for its website his Department has commissioned since 2005. [318649]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office has commissioned two redesigns since 2005.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* average time to answer a call, *(b)* average waiting time for members of the public during a call, *(c)* percentage of calls dropped or not answered and *(d)* average length of calls was in call centres run by his Department and each of its agencies in the latest period for which figures are available. [312376]

Mr. Woolas: The Core Home Office does not run any call centres. Please see the information requested in the following table in respect of the Home Office Executive Agencies:

	United Kingdom Border Agency	*Criminal Records Bureau*	*Identity and Passport Service*
Average time to answer a call	5 minutes 45 seconds	9 seconds	Calls are answered on second ring by automated response
Average waiting time for members of the public during a call	6 minutes 54 seconds	7 seconds	10 seconds to speak to agency after selecting from automated response
Percentage of calls dropped or not answered	26.7 per cent	0.80 per cent	1.5 per cent
Average length of calls	4 minutes 02 seconds	2 minutes 45 seconds	4 minutes 30 seconds

The figures provided in the above table for UKBA and CRB are based on monthly figures available for December 2009. Figures for IPS provided are based on averages from monthly returns for Authentication. By Interview (ABI) and Adviceline calls.

UKBA have made improvements to their procedures for answering calls over the past six months. There is an action plan in place to deliver further improvements.

Deportation: Commonwealth

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from each Commonwealth country have been deported in *(a)* each of the last three years and *(b)* 2010 to date. [319580]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of nationals of each Commonwealth country removed or departed voluntarily, 2007 to 2009. Figures for 2010 are not currently available. Statistics for the first quarter of 2010 will be published on the 27 May 2010.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Removals and voluntary departures of Commonwealth nationals from the United Kingdom[1, 2], by country of nationality[3], 2007 to 2009[4]

			Number of departures
Country of nationality	*2007*	*2008[7]*	*2009[7]*
Antigua and Barbuda	65	35	40
Australia	655	680	670
Bahamas	10	10	10
Bangladesh	1,310	1,850	1,200
Barbados	75	95	80
Belize	15	15	10
Botswana	80	55	70
Brunei	5	10	10
Cameroon	365	235	235
Canada	795	845	785
Cyprus	10	5	*
Dominica	60	50	50
Fiji[5]	20	20	20
Gambia	230	185	150
Ghana	1,040	1,350	980
Grenada	90	85	85
Guyana	60	55	50
India	3,965	5,320	5,740
Jamaica	1,570	1,625	1,105
Kenya	330	360	365
Kiribati	—	—	5
Lesotho	15	25	15
Malawi	300	375	495
Malaysia	2,065	2,040	1,410
Maldives	10	10	15
Malta	*	*	*
Mauritius	660	760	665
Mozambique	10	15	15
Namibia	250	170	150
Nauru	5	—	*
New Zealand	225	260	260
Nigeria	3,500	3,660	2,890
Pakistan	3,895	3,160	2,990
Papua New Guinea	5	*	5
Rwanda[6]	35	30	30
Samoa	*	*	5
Seychelles	75	40	40
Sierra Leone	255	190	120
Singapore	115	120	100
Solomon Islands	5	—	—
South Africa	1,900	1,645	1,290
Sri Lanka	775	705	695
St. Kitts and Nevis	30	20	20
St. Lucia	165	160	115
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	90	80	75
Swaziland	40	45	30
Tanzania	155	165	170
Tonga	10	10	10
Trinidad and Tobago	350	310	270
Tuvalu	—	—	*
Uganda	425	455	390
Vanuatu	5	—	—
Zambia	120	140	140
Commonwealth total	26,230	27,480	24,080

[1] Includes enforced removals, persons departing voluntarily after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration, persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities and non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed.

[2] Figures include dependants.

[3] Includes Commonwealth member states as at 25 February 2010, the full list is available from the Commonwealth Secretariat website at www.thecommonwealth.org

[4] Figures rounded to the nearest five (— = 0, * = one or two) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[5] Following the decisions taken by the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group on 31 July 2009, Fiji Islands was suspended from membership of the Commonwealth on 1 September 2009.

[6] Rwanda joined the Commonwealth in November 2009.

[7] Provisional figures. Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

Deportation: Offenders

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign national offenders who have been subject to the *(a)* early removal and *(b)* facilitated return scheme have been (i) charged with and (ii) convicted of a further offence; [317314]

(2) what the average length of custodial sentence has been of a foreign national prisoner participating in the *(a)* early removal and *(b)* facilitated return scheme; [317315]

(3) how many foreign national prisoners of each nationality have participated in the *(a)* early removal and *(b)* facilitated return scheme in each year since their inception; [317316]

(4) what the monetary value of the average financial package received by foreign national prisoners is as a result of participation in the *(a)* early removal and *(b)* facilitated return scheme; [317317]

(5) how many foreign national prisoners participating in the *(a)* early removal and *(b)* facilitated return scheme were serving a custodial sentence of (i) four years or less, (ii) three years or less and (iii) two years or less at the latest date for which figures are available. [317318]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* All foreign nationals subject to removal will be considered by National Offender Management Service under the early removals scheme (ERS), which allows for early removal up to a maximum of 270 days prior to the halfway point of the sentence, subject to the serving of a requisite period. Since 2008, the UKBA has removed approximately 11,000 foreign national prisoners. Of these, approximately a quarter were removed before the end of the sentence under the ERS and approximately 30 per cent. were removed under the facilitated returns scheme.

We do not publish a breakdown by nationality of the foreign national prisoners removed or deported from the UK. Information on total removals and voluntary departures from the UK by nationality is published quarterly. The latest can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq309 supp1.xls#'TableF'!A1

Of those removed directly from prison under ERS since 2008, the average sentence length was between three and four years and approximately two-thirds were serving a sentence of less than four years.

Of those removed from the UK under the FRS scheme since 2008, the average sentence length was between two and three years and approximately three-quarters were serving a sentence of less than four years.

This is taken from provisional management information and subject to change. Data from before 2008 could be obtained only by referencing individual case files. This would be at disproportionate cost.

In both 2008 and between quarters 1 and 3 of 2009 less than three-quarters removed under FRS claimed the reintegration package on return and of those that did, the average amount received was less than £2,500 for 2008 and £3,500 for quarters 1 to 3 of 2009. There is no financial package associated with ERS.

All foreign national prisoners are entered on the watch list when removed so checks can be made to prevent those who are barred and those who have no right from entering the UK. To provide information on foreign nationals who have been removed and gone on to re-offend would require the examination of individual records which would incur disproportionate cost.

Electronic Government: International Cooperation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what work *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Identity and Passport Service and *(c)* each of his Department's other agencies has carried out with or for Project STORK in each of the last five years. [318710]

Alan Johnson: Project STORK started in June 2008 and the Identity and Passport Service is leading the UK contribution to the project. Some preparatory work was undertaken from 2007 until the formal start of the project. During this time work on the project has fallen into two phases. The first has been analysis and design to enable technical implementation and meet legal requirements. The second is the implementation of a number of pilot projects, starting later this year.

Entry Clearances: Skilled Workers

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 221-22W, on entry clearances, how many permits under Tier 2 general were issued in each month of 2009. [318670]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 February 2010]:* The following table provides detail of the numbers of in-country grants of leave to remain and out of country visas issued under Tier 2 (General) of the Points Based System in each month of 2009.

	Tier 2 (General)	
	In country	*Out of country*
January	168	147
February	566	305
March	772	453
April	687	557
May	1,032	756
June	1,356	883
July	1,636	886
August	1,561	1,078
September	1,191	977
October	1,201	856
November	1,136	821
December	1,275	839
Total	12,581	8,558

The table above is based on approved main applications only. This data are not provided under National Statistics protocols. They have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals, waited between their first application to the National Referral

Mechanism and receiving their conclusive grounds decisions for *(a)* up to seven days, *(b)* eight to 45 days, *(c)* 46 days to three months, *(d)* three to six months and *(e)* over six months in the latest period for which figures are available. [318963]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* Between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009, 132 decisions have been made at the conclusive grounds stage. From the date of referral *(a)* no conclusive grounds decision were released in the first seven days, *(b)* 24 were released in eight to 45 days, *(c)* 65 in 46 days to three months, *(d)* 39 in three to six months and *(e)* four took over six months.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum number of case owners is in respect of each potential human trafficking case that has been referred through the National Referral Mechanism since 1 April 2009. [318972]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* The majority of National Referral Mechanism cases are assessed by two officers. Upon referral, a case will be allocated to a competent authority case owner who will decide if someone is a victim of trafficking. Before the decision is released it will then be considered by a second person, normally a senior competent authority, to quality assure the decision.

In cases where a referral has been made by an external agency such as the police or local authority, and where there is an immigration issue but the person is not yet known to UKBA, the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) will make the reasonable grounds decision and then pass the case to the UKBA Competent Authority for the conclusive grounds decision. In these circumstances cases will be considered by four officers at various stages of the NRM process.

There will be instances where a case is assigned to a competent authority who becomes unavailable part way through consideration due to illness or a change in role. These circumstances are rare but where they occur they will result in the case being reallocated to another case owner.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much time elapsed between the asylum interview and a conclusive grounds decision in respect of the case of each potential victim of human trafficking referred to the National Referral Mechanism on the latest date for which figures are available. [319835]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for identifying victims of human trafficking includes a decision on whether a person is conclusively found to be a victim of trafficking. This is separate from the asylum system, which involves an assessment of whether someone has a well founded fear of persecution under the 1951 Geneva Convention.

It will be under a particular set of circumstances where there has been an asylum application leading to an asylum interview as well as a conclusive grounds trafficking decision for the same individual. Moreover the timing of the separate processes is not directly linked. Where an asylum application is made, it can be before, during or after a referral and conclusive grounds decision under the NRM.

The following is a table of cases where there has been an asylum interview and a conclusive grounds decision under the NRM with their respective dates:

Case number	*Date of asylum interview*	*Date of conclusive grounds decision*
1	6 April 2009	19 April 2009
2	6 April 2009	30 June 2009
3	15 April 2009	17 March 2009
4	5 May 2009	17 September 2009
5	1 May 2009	24 August 2009
6	30 April 2009	8 July 2009
7	6 May 2009	11 June 2009
8	18 May 2009	16 July 2009
9	8 October 2009	13 November 2009
10	5 August 2009	23 October 2009
11	12 March 2009	15 October 2009
12	2 March 2009	17 September 2009
13	8 April 2009	17 June 2009
14	27 March 2009	24 August 2009
15	9 June 2009	29 September 2009
16	24 August 2009	27 October 2009
17	22 September 2009	2 October 2009
18	22 August 2009	16 September 2009
19	25 June 2009	9 September 2009
20	3 February2009	29 October 2009
21	2 March 2009	29 September 2009
22	24 August 2009	11 November 2009
23	26 August 2009	3 September 2009
24	9 August 2007	14 December 2009
25	3 November 2009	20 November 2009
26	7 September 2009	30 October 2009
27	14 September 2009	27 November 2009
28	7 August 2009	7 April 2009
29	22 July 2009	15 July 2009
30	4 August 2009	10 November 2009
31	24 July 2009	19 August 2009
32	28 April 2009	3 July 2009
33	10 September 2009	5 August 2009
34	5 August 2009	2 December 2009
35	3 September 2009	28 September 2009
37	16 September 2009	23 November 2009
38	7 April 2009	3 December 2009
39	10 February2009	1 December 2009
40	29 October 2009	4 December 2009
41	14 July 2009	1 October 2009
42	22 February 2006	14 December 2009
43	11 February 2009	14 August 2009
44	17 July 2009	3 November 2009
45	14 August 2009	20 November 2009
46	27 August 2009	23 October 2009
47	14 July 2009	4 November 2009
48	17 September 2008	24 July2009
49	19 November 2009	1 December 2009
50	17 November 2009	30 October 2009
51	9 February 2009	22 June 2009
52	17 July 2009	30 October 2009
53	30 July 2009	14 August 2009
54	3 November 2009	26 November 2009
55	20 January 2010	16 December 2009

Identity and Passport Service

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what planning applications the Identity and Passport Service has submitted in the last 18 months; and in respect of which addresses. [319665]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service has submitted two planning applications as detailed in the following table:

Date	*Address*	*Planning reference*	*Detail*	*Status*
18 May 2009	Aragon Court, Northminster Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE1 1QG	09/00544/FUL	Installation of two roof mounted heat pump units	Granted in full.
8 February 2010	Law Society House, 90-106 Victoria St. Belfast BT1 3JZ	Z/2010/0106/F	New external louvers to rear elevation and roof top plant to existing office accommodation	This application has been checked for completeness and is considered to be valid. The application will now be subject to: neighbour notification, advertising, consultation with statutory agencies, and if necessary, other organisations and a site inspection.

Identity and Passport Service: Manpower

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people worked for the Identity and Passport Service *(a)* in 2006 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available; and how many are projected to work for it in 2015. [318706]

Alan Johnson: As published in the 2006-07 Annual Report, the average number of employees on the Agency payroll during the year ending 31 March 2007 was 3,619.

The latest published figures are also available in the 2008-09 Annual Report which shows that the average number of employees on the Agency payroll during that year was 4,078. This figure includes the GRO staff who joined the Agency from 1 April 2008.

IPS does not have a projected headcount for 2015.

Identity Cards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* Government departments, *(b)* non-governmental public bodies and *(c)* other organisations (i) have and (ii) are planned to have access to information held on the national identity database. [318708]

Alan Johnson: No organisation will have direct access to information recorded on the National Identity Register, with or without the consent of the individual. The Identity Cards Act 2006, and secondary legislation made there under, sets out who may be provided with information from an individual's entry on the register and under what circumstances.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make it his policy not to introduce compulsory identity cards. [318715]

Alan Johnson: Government policy is that Identity Cards are voluntary. The Prime Minister has made it clear that there will be no legislation to make Identity Cards compulsory for British citizens in the next Parliament. Identity cards are all about personal choice and the introduction of identity cards, which has now started for British citizens, is on a voluntary basis.

Identity Cards: EU Action

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the nature is of the relationship between the Identity and Passport Service and Project STORK. [318770]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 25 February 2010]:* The Identity and Passport Service is leading the UK contribution to Project Stork as a member of a consortium within the EU who are working together to pilot a cross border solution for the delivery of e-services. The project is part of the European Union Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the name and address is of each business the UK Border Agency has fined for hiring illegal immigrants in the last 24 months. [319617]

Mr. Woolas: Since the introduction of civil penalties which came into effect for those employed on, or after 29 February 2008, a total of 3,709 notices of liability for a civil penalty to the period 31 January 2010, have been issued to employers hiring illegal workers. These data are derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. It is not practical to list the names and addresses of all those employers but details of employers where the appeal process against service of a notice of liability for a civil penalty has been fully exhausted in the last quarter can be found on the UK Border Agency website at the following link:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/employersandsponsors/listemployerspenalties/

The information is listed by region and includes the name of the business, the town or city where it is located, the postcode of the business, the number of illegal workers found to be working illegally and the amount of the civil penalty imposed.

Immigration Controls

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Certificates of Sponsorship have been granted to employers under *(a)* Tier 2 general and *(b)* Tier 2 ICT to date; and how many such certificates for the second year of Tier 2 of the points-based system remain under consideration. [318427]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* As at 21 February 2010 the number of Certificates of Sponsorship (CoS) assigned to employers under Tier 2 (General) is 36,140[1] and the number assigned for Intra-company transfer is 40,980[1].

Information on the number of certificates for the second year of Tier 2 which remain under consideration is not available.

[1] These figures are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information. They are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what datasets not included in the National Indicator Set local authorities are required to submit to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies. [319616]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office does not place any statutory obligations on local authorities to submit, for either performance management or monitoring purposes, any datasets to the department or its agencies, other than the National Indicator Set.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 17 December 2009, on asylum seekers (reference: M27601/9). [319456]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* I replied to the hon. Member's e-mail under reference M27605/9 on 19 January 2010.

I will arrange despatch of a further copy of that reply.

Metropolitan Police

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make it his policy to review the process by which senior police officers in the Metropolitan Police are appointed; and if he will make a statement. [319851]

Mr. Hanson: The Government are supportive of the Commissioner having a strong role in appointments. The Policing and Crime Act 2009 reinforces this by making it a statutory obligation for the Metropolitan Police Authority to consult the Commissioner in making senior appointments. This process will be kept under review.

Passports: Fraud

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fraudulent passport applications were made in 2009; and how many of those applications involved *(a)* identity theft and *(b)* false declarations where the individual was otherwise entitled to a passport. [319577]

Meg Hillier: IPS estimates that in the calendar year 2009 there were 13,396 fraudulent passport applications. The number of confirmed frauds detected in 2009 was around 8,600 of which 167 involved identity theft. IPS does not routinely collate data where a false declaration has been made where the applicant was otherwise entitled to a passport.

Police: Bureaucracy

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of police officer time spent on paperwork in each year since 1997; [319529]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of police officer time spent on beat patrol in each year since 1997; [319530]

(3) what estimate he has made of the proportion of police officer time spent on patrol *(a)* on foot and *(b)* in cars in each year since 1997. [319531]

Alan Johnson: Information on time spent on patrol and paperwork was collected between 2003-04 and 2007-08 as part of the frontline policing measure and is set out in the following table. Information was not collected on time spent on patrol in cars and on foot. To reduce paperwork burdens on police officers the collection of data about time spent by officers on police activities ceased after 2007-08 in response to the recommendations by Sir David Normington in his review of data burdens placed by the Government on the police service published in February 2009.

The figure for time spent on patrol does not include everything done by an officer engaged in frontline policing. It only measures the time an officer is engaged on no other activity but patrol, for example as soon as they respond to an incident they are counted against that activity and not patrol. It is therefore inappropriate to look at the patrol element in isolation from the rest of the frontline policing measure.

Policing necessarily requires a degree of paperwork: to ensure accountability in the use of powers, prepare case files, and take witness statements. Non-incident paperwork includes handling complaints. All of these activities are part of providing a modern, effective and accountable police service.

Time spent on patrol and paperwork 2003-04 to 2007-08

Percentage

	Total time spent on paperwork	*Time spent on incident-related paperwork*	*Time spent on non incident related paperwork*	*Time spent on patrol*	*Frontline policing measure*
2003-04	20.1	10.3	9.8	14.2	62.1
2004-05	18.4	9.9	8.5	15.3	62.6

Time spent on patrol and paperwork 2003-04 to 2007-08

Percentage

	Total time spent on paperwork	*Time spent on incident-related paperwork*	*Time spent on non incident related paperwork*	*Time spent on patrol*	*Frontline policing measure*
2005-06	19.3	10.8	8.5	14.0	63.1
2006-07	19.9	11.4	8.5	13.6	64.2
2007-08	21.7	12.4	9.3	13.8	64.9

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the proportion of police officer time spent on health and safety-related activities in each year since 1997. [319533]

Alan Johnson: Information relating to the proportion of time spent on 'health and safety-related activities' is not held centrally.

The health, safety and welfare of police officers is the responsibility of the chief officer of each individual police force.

Prison Sentences: Deportation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners from *(a)* Ireland and *(b)* each other European Economic Area country serving mandatory life sentences have been deported or removed in each of the last five years. [320071]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 2 March 2010]:* Since 2007, the UK Border Agency has removed or deported over 15,000 foreign national offenders. Of those removed or deported, less than three in every thousand previously served a mandatory life sentence.

Information from before this period could be obtained only by reviewing individual records. This would be a disproportionate cost.

As a general rule, it is our policy not to disclose the volume or characteristics of those removed to specific countries as it would jeopardise our diplomatic relations. This exemption would normally include EEA countries but, in the case of the Irish Republic and consistent with the special relationship that exists between the UK and the Republic of Ireland, I can confirm that, approximately 30 Irish national prisoners have been removed since 2007.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Cadet Forces

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils at *(a)* grammar, *(b)* comprehensive and *(c)* Academy schools were members of cadet forces in the last year for which figures are available. [316722]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have been asked to reply.

The information required is not held in the format requested. The data provided reflects only the category of 'State' schools (noting that for the purposes of Combined Cadet Force (CCF) data collated by MOD, all other schools are categorised as Independent).

As at 1 April 2009, and subject to the caveats mentioned above, there were 7,579 School pupils who were members of their State School's Combined Cadet Force. However, given that the majority of Cadets are members of a community-based Cadet unit, it is estimated that some 90,000 cadets are state school pupils. In the same timeframe there were some 130,000 cadets overall. It should also be noted that there are 25 known partnerships where Independent Schools with CCFs provide cadet places to neighbouring State schools; for these partnerships it is not possible to identify the numbers of State School cadets.

Full statistics on cadet forces can be found on the Defence Analytical Services and Advice organisation's website in their Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 7:

www.dasa.mod.uk

Children: Day Care

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department and its predecessors have taken to reduce the cost of child care to parents and carers in London since 2005. [319663]

Dawn Primarolo: As a result of changes introduced since 2004, all families in London (as elsewhere in England) with three and four-year-olds are entitled to 12.5 hours of free early learning and child care per week, and this will rise to 15 hours per week from September 2010. Since September 2009, all local authorities in London have also received funding of 10 hours of free early learning and child care per week to their 15 per cent. most disadvantaged two-year-olds.

Parents in London can also receive support for child care costs through the tax credits system. In 2006, the threshold of costs that were available to parents was increased from 70 per cent. to 80 per cent. In London the number of families benefiting increased by over 12,000 between 2004-05 and 2007-08 (the latest year for which figures are available).

From 2005 to 2009, a joint initiative by the Government and the London Development Agency, the London Childcare Affordability Pilots 2005, offered parents more affordable and flexible child care places. At its peak the pilot provided over 6,000 subsidised flexible day care places.

Since 2009 the Childcare Affordability Pilots have been trialling with London families two possible improvements to the support for child care costs that they receive through the child care element of working tax credit. The pilots are assessing the impact on child care take up of offering families 100 per cent. of their child care costs up to £215 per week for one child rather than the usual £140; and, for families with a disabled child, paying 80 per cent. of their child care costs up £300 per week for one child. Both strands offer up to £350 per week if parents have more than one child.

Children's Centres: South West

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children's centres are *(a)* open and *(b)* planned to be opened in the next 12 months at each location in each local authority area in the south west. [316055]

Dawn Primarolo: The table setting out the number of Sure Start Children's Centres that have *(a)* opened and *(b)* planned to be opened in the next 12 months at each location in each local authority area in the south west as at 31 December 2009, has been placed in the Libraries.

Class Sizes: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average class size in schools in Salford was in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [317388]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The average class size in maintained primary schools in Salford constituency was 26.0 in 1997 and 24.6 in 2009; the figures for state funded secondary schools were 21.4 and 18.4 respectively.

Figures include middle schools as deemed. City technology colleges and academies are included under secondary.

Pre-school Education: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* free nursery and *(b)* pre-school places were available for children aged (i) three and (ii) four years old in Leeds North West constituency in each year since 1997. [319508]

Dawn Primarolo: Table 1 shows the number of part-time equivalent places filled by three and four-year-olds in Leeds North West constituency from 2004 to 2009.

The Department publishes information on the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds in maintained, private, voluntary and independent providers. Information on the number of pre-school places is not separately available. Part-time equivalent places are derived by counting children taking up 12 and a half hours per week as one place, 10 hours per week as 0.8 places, seven and a half hours per week as 0.6 places, five hours per week as 0.4 places and two and a half hours per week as 0.2 places. Data at parliamentary constituency level are not available prior to 2004.

Table 2: Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1, 2, 3] filled by three and four-year-olds[4], parliamentary constituency: Leeds North West position in January each year

	Three-year-olds	Four-year-olds
2004	570	720
2005	590	600
2006	600	710
2007	660	690
2008	710	650
2009	760	700

[1] A place is equal to 12.5 hours (five sessions) and can be filled by more than one child.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

[3] Prior to 2004, information on early education places was derived from returns made by local authorities as part of the nursery education grant (NEG) data collection exercise. These data were collected at local authority level, therefore data for this parliamentary constituency is not available prior to 2004.

[4] Age of all children taken at 31 December in the previous calendar year.

Source:

Early Years Census and School Census.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 11/2009 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2009", available on the Department's website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000848/index.shtml

Pupil Exclusions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 312W, on National Safeguarding Delivery Unit: standards, how many pupils received more than *(a)* 15 and *(b)* 20 fixed period exclusions in each local authority area in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [319165]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information is shown in the following table.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3] number of times pupil enrolments were excluded for a fixed period[4] 2006/07 and 2007/08

	2006/07		2007/08	
	Pupils with more than 15 exclusions	Pupils with more than 20 exclusions	Pupils with more than 15 exclusions	Pupils with more than 20 exclusions
City of London	0	0	0	0
Camden	0	0	0	0
Greenwich	x	0	x	x
Hackney	0	0	0	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	0	0	0
Islington	0	0	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea	0	0	0	0
Lambeth	x	x	x	0
Lewisham	0	0	0	0
Southwark	x	0	0	0
Tower Hamlets	0	0	0	0
Wandsworth	0	0	0	0

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3] number of times pupil enrolments were excluded for a fixed period[4] 2006/07 and 2007/08

	2006/07		2007/08	
	Pupils with more than 15 exclusions	*Pupils with more than 20 exclusions*	*Pupils with more than 15 exclusions*	*Pupils with more than 20 exclusions*
Westminster	0	0	x	0
Barking and Dagenham	0	0	0	0
Barnet	0	0	0	0
Bexley	0	0	0	0
Brent	x	0	0	0
Bromley	10	x	x	0
Croydon	0	0	0	0
Ealing	0	0	0	0
Enfield	x	x	x	x
Haringey	x	0	0	0
Harrow	0	0	x	0
Havering	0	0	0	0
Hillingdon	0	0	0	0
Hounslow	0	0	0	0
Kingston upon Thames	0	0	0	0
Merton	x	x	0	0
Newham	0	0	0	0
Redbridge	x	0	x	x
Richmond upon Thames	0	0	0	0
Sutton	0	0	x	0
Waltham Forest	x	x	0	0
Birmingham	10	10	x	0
Coventry	x	0	0	0
Dudley	x	x	x	0
Sandwell	0	0	0	0
Solihull	0	0	x	0
Walsall	0	0	0	0
Wolverhampton	x	x	0	0
Knowsley	0	0	0	0
Liverpool	0	0	0	0
St. Helens	0	0	0	0
Sefton	0	0	0	0
Wirral	0	0	0	0
Bolton	x	x	0	0
Bury	0	0	x	0
Manchester	x	0	x	x
Oldham	0	0	0	0
Rochdale	0	0	0	0
Salford	x	x	0	0
Stockport	0	0	x	0
Tameside	x	x	x	0
Trafford	0	0	0	0
Wigan	x	0	x	x
Barnsley	0	0	0	0
Doncaster	10	0	x	0
Rotherham	x	x	x	0
Sheffield	0	0	0	0
Bradford	x	0	0	0
Calderdale	0	0	0	0
Kirklees	x	0	x	0
Leeds	x	x	x	x
Wakefield	x	x	x	0
Gateshead	0	0	0	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	0	0	0	0
North Tyneside	0	0	0	0
South Tyneside	0	0	0	0
Sunderland	0	0	0	0
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0
Bath and North East Somerset	x	0	x	x
City of Bristol	0	0	x	0

Primary, secondary and special schools[1] [2] [3] number of times pupil enrolments were excluded for a fixed period[4] 2006/07 and 2007/08

	2006/07		2007/08	
	Pupils with more than 15 exclusions	*Pupils with more than 20 exclusions*	*Pupils with more than 15 exclusions*	*Pupils with more than 20 exclusions*
North Somerset	0	0	0	0
South Gloucestershire	x	0	0	0
Hartlepool	0	0	0	0
Middlesbrough	0	0	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland	0	0	0	0
Stockton on Tees	0	0	0	0
City of Kingston-Upon-Hull	x	x	x	0
East Riding of Yorkshire	x	0	10	x
North East Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0
North Lincolnshire	0	0	x	0
North Yorkshire	x	0	x	0
York	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	x	x	0	0
Luton	0	0	0	0
Buckinghamshire	x	0	x	0
Milton Keynes	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	10	x	x	x
Derby	0	0	0	0
Dorset	0	0	0	0
Poole	10	x	10	x
Bournemouth	0	0	0	0
Durham	x	0	10	x
Darlington	0	0	0	0
East Sussex	x	x	0	0
Brighton and Hove	0	0	x	x
Hampshire	x	x	x	x
Portsmouth	x	0	x	0
Southampton	0	0	10	x
Leicestershire	0	0	x	0
Leicester City	0	0	x	0
Rutland	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	0	0	x	0
Stoke	0	0	0	0
Wiltshire	x	0	x	0
Swindon	0	0	x	x
Bracknell Forest	0	0	0	0
Windsor and Maidenhead	0	0	0	0
West Berkshire	0	0	x	0
Reading	0	0	x	0
Slough	0	0	0	0
Wokingham	0	0	x	0
Cambridgeshire	x	x	0	0
Peterborough	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	10	0	x	x
Halton	0	0	0	0
Warrington	0	0	x	0
Devon	x	0	x	x
Plymouth	x	0	10	0
Torbay	0	0	0	0
Essex	x	0	10	x
Southend	0	0	0	0
Thurrock	0	0	0	0
Herefordshire	x	x	0	0
Worcestershire	x	0	0	0
Kent	0	0	x	0
Medway	0	0	x	x
Lancashire	x	0	x	x
Blackburn with Darwen	0	0	0	0
Blackpool	0	0	x	x
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3] number of times pupil enrolments were excluded for a fixed period[4] 2006/07 and 2007/08

	2006/07		2007/08	
	Pupils with more than 15 exclusions	Pupils with more than 20 exclusions	Pupils with more than 15 exclusions	Pupils with more than 20 exclusions
Nottingham	0	0	x	0
Shropshire	0	0	0	0
Telford and Wrekin	x	x	0	0
Cornwall	x	0	0	0
Cumbria	x	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	0	0	x	0
Hertfordshire	0	0	x	0
Isle of Wight	0	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	x	0
Norfolk	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	x	0	10	x
Northumberland	0	0	0	0
Oxfordshire	x	0	0	0
Somerset	x	x	10	x
Suffolk	10	x	x	0
Surrey	x	0	10	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0
West Sussex	0	0	0	0
England	130	40	150	40

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Pupils may be counted more than once if they were registered at more than one school or moved schools during the school year.

Notes:

1. Those pupils counted in the 'more than 20' category are also included in the 'more than 15' category.
2. Figures rounded to nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Sports: Primary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* comprehensive and *(b)* maintained primary schools which held a school sports day in the latest period for which figures are available. [315705]

Mr. Iain Wright: The annual PE and Sport survey collects data from maintained schools relating to pupils' participation in PE and sport. The 2008/09 survey found that all primary schools and 98 per cent. of secondary schools held a sports day during the last academic year.

HEALTH

Abortion

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 382-3W, on abortion, what the evidential basis is for the statement that additional funding for contraception in the last two years has contributed to a decrease in abortion rates. [319957]

Gillian Merron: The Department invested additional funds in contraception services in April 2008 (£12.8 million), September 2008 (£10 million) and April 2009 (£11.6 million). In each of the last five quarters (July 2008 to September 2009), the abortion rate was lower than the corresponding quarter in the preceding year. As these decreases in the abortion rate coincide with the period in which the additional investment was available, we believe that the additional investment, and other measures we have taken, has made a contribution towards the decreases in the abortion rate.

Aortic Aneurysm: Screening

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much the NHS Abdominal Aortic Screening programme has cost to date; [320049]

(2) how many phases of NHS Abdominal Aortic Screening programme there will be; [320050]

(3) which NHS trusts have submitted an application to the NHS Abdominal Aortic Screening programme to begin an ultrasound screening programme for aortic aneurysms; [320051]

(4) what the timetable is for the full implementation of the NHS Abdominal Aortic Screening programme; [320052]

(5) what estimate his Department made about the number of patients who will have been screened in each of the sites covered by phase one of the NHS Abdominal Aortic Screening programme after *(a)* one year and *(b)* five years; [320054]

(6) when ultrasound screening for aortic aneurysms will begin in each of the sites covered by phase one of the NHS Abdominal Aortic Screening programme; [320055]

(7) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that men aged 65 years old participate in an ultrasound screening programme for aortic aneurysms *(a)* at each of the early implementation sites and *(b)* when the programme is fully implemented. [320056]

Ann Keen: The NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm screening programme has cost £5,335,809.50 up to the end of March 2010. This is made up of start up and full year costs for six early implementation sites, start up costs for four phase one sites, screening equipment for 10 sites, training of technicians and information leaflets.

It is anticipated that there will be a maximum of eight phases of roll out, however the exact number is unknown as this depends on the number of applications received and geographical fit of each local screening programme.

The following national health service trusts have been successful with their applications to begin ultrasound screening for aortic aneurysms:

Phase	*Screening Programme*	*NHS Trust*
Early Implementation	Gloucestershire	Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Early Implementation	West Sussex	Royal West Sussex NHS Trust
Early Implementation	South West London	St George's Healthcare Trust
Early Implementation	South Devon and Exeter	South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Early Implementation	South Manchester	Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Early Implementation	Leicestershire	University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust
Phase 1	Peninsula	Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust
Phase 1	Heartlands	Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust
Phase 1	South East London	Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital NHS Trust
Phase 1	North East	Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust
Phase 1	North Central London	The Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust
Phase 1	North West London	Imperial Healthcare NHS Trust
Phase 1	East Yorkshire and The Humber	Hull and East Yorkshire Hospital NHS Trust

It is anticipated that full national roll out of the Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm screening programme will be completed by the end of 2012-13.

The following table details the numbers of patients screened in phase one after a) one

year and b) five years:

Screening Programme	*Year One*	*Year Five*
Peninsula	4,369	29,512
South East London	4,818	32,548
North East	11,598	78,350
Heartlands	3,364	22,721
North Central London	3,966	26,789
North West London	7,349	49,648
East Yorkshire and The Humber	4,199	28,363

All phase one sites will be screening by the end of May 2010.

The national programme team have put in place a number of measures to ensure the highest possible take up of screening once men have been identified for screening through their general practitioner. Examples include:

Involving 65 year old men when developing the initial communication materials for the screening programme to ensure that key messages were targeted at the right level;

National information leaflets have been designed for use in local programmes to ensure consistency of messages and offer informed choice;

Recruiting a Communications manager to work with local programmes ensuring that the right information is promoted to suit their local demographic; and

Commissioning an independent evaluation of all information to assess:

whether the patient information materials met the needs of men invited for screening

how well men invited for screening understand the risks they may face and:

assess how well health professionals think the information meets the needs of men invited for screening and the programme itself.

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been screened as part of the NHS Abdominal Aortic Screening programme at each early implementation site. [320053]

Ann Keen: The following table details the number of patients screened by each screening programme to the end of February 2010:

Screening Programme	*Numbers of patients screened*
Gloucestershire	4,214
Leicestershire	4,247
South West London	3,000
South Devon	2,276
South Manchester	1,878
West Sussex	3,111

Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment has been made of the standard and quality of care -and management at Basildon and Thurrock Hospital Trust by *(a)* Monitor, *(b)* the Care Quality Commission and *(c)* his Department. [320267]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Chris Mellor, Acting Chair of Monitor, the regulatory body for NHS Foundation Trusts, has written to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State about the progress being made at the trust.

Monitor has advised that further progress has been made at the trust since December 2009.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has advised that it has an ongoing engagement with Basildon and Thurrock as part of the registration process which began in January. CQC is in the process of assessing whether conditions will need to be attached to the trust's registration on 1 April.

The Secretary of State will update the House in a written ministerial statement which will be issued on 5 March.

Bone Marrow Disorders: Drugs

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the drug Peginterferon alfa-2a has been approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for use with patients with essential thrombocythaemia; [320596]

(2) which primary care trusts in *(a)* London and *(b)* the South East have approved the funding for the treatment of essential thrombocythaemia with Peginterferon alfa-2a. [320597]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Peginterferon alfa-2a is not licensed for the treatment of essential thrombocythaemia and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has not been asked to appraise it for this condition.

Information on primary care trusts' funding decisions is not collected centrally.

Colorectal Cancer Screening

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase the levels of participation in bowel cancer screening programmes. [320339]

Ann Keen: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for screening services, including the promotion of the national health service bowel screening programme. We would expect those areas with low bowel screening uptake rates to develop targeted programmes to tackle this locally.

As the bowel cancer screening programme was implemented in local areas, NHS Cancer Screening Programmes sent out an information pack to all local general practitioners (GPs). As well as explaining how the programme works, the packs contained promotional information, including posters for GPs to use to promote the programme in their own practices.

The National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative, launched in November 2008, is working with NHS Cancer Screening Programmes on key messages and awareness programmes to improve screening uptake, particularly in deprived groups.

Complementary Medicine

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what complementary or alternative treatments, medicines or therapies are offered through the National Health Service; and what evidence his Department has considered on the efficacy of each. [320578]

Gillian Merron: The commissioning and funding of any treatments, including complementary/alternative, is the responsibility of the national health service. Many strategic health authorities and primary care trusts have developed their own policies on which treatments they will provide based one the safety and clinical and cost-effectiveness of a treatment as well as the availability of suitably qualified/regulated practitioners. When developing guidance for the management of health conditions, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) considers complementary therapies, where appropriate and sufficient evidence of effectiveness exists, alongside conventional treatments.

Dementia

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many staff in a *(a)* elderly mentally infirm and *(b)* standard care home are required to have a qualification in dementia awareness; [319959]

(2) Health what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* length of stay in care homes of residents with dementia and *(b)* proportion of residents in care homes with a diagnosis of dementia. [319960]

Phil Hope: The Care Homes Regulations 2001 - Regulation 18 - require homes to

> "ensure that at all times suitably qualified, competent and experienced persons are working at the care home in such numbers as are appropriate for the health and welfare of service users".

This will include ensuring that there are suitable numbers of staff trained and able to care for residents with dementia.

We are informed by the NHS Information Centre that data on the length of stay in care homes of residents with dementia and the proportion of residents in care homes with a diagnosis of dementia are not collected centrally.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) registers care homes under the Care Standards Act 2000 (CSA), which remains operational until 30 September 2010. The CSA makes no provision for a registration category of "elderly mentally infirm". Homes are registered with CQC as care homes or care homes with nursing.

Subject to the approval of Parliament, care homes will be registered from 1 October 2010 under the 'regulated activity' in which they are engaged - that is, 'accommodation for persons who require nursing or personal care'. It will be for CQC to decide whether to record detailed information for each care home, such as whether it provides care for people with dementia.

Health Act 2009

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made on its consultation on the provisions of the Health Act 2009 relating to tobacco; when he expects to *(a)* publish a report on the consultation and *(b)* lay before Parliament the consequent statutory instruments; and if he will make a statement. [320169]

Gillian Merron: On 26 February 2010, the Government published "Consultation on proposed tobacco control regulations for England (under the Health Act 2009):

Summary of consultation responses" on the Department's website. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Two sets of regulations for England were laid before Parliament on 27 January 2010, prohibiting tobacco sales from vending machine and regulating tobacco product prices lists and labels.

Two further sets of regulations for England were laid before Parliament on 2 March 2010 regulating the removal of tobacco displays and tobacco advertising and display by specialist tobacconists.

Health Services: Worcestershire

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 747-48W, on health services: Worcestershire, what consultation he plans to undertake on the preferred option for the delivery of community services; and what objectives he has set for that consultation. [320575]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department would not consult on proposals in Worcestershire. This is a matter for Worcestershire primary care trust (PCT).

'Transforming Community Services: The Assurance and Approval Process for PCT-provided Community Services', makes clear that patients and the public should be involved in any proposed service change that may arise from an organisational change. This document has already been placed in the Library. Sustained engagement of patients, public, staff, their unions and representatives, and key stakeholders is essential. This is a process that is managed locally by PCTs, and assured by strategic health authorities.

Home Care Services: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 296W, on social services: finance, from which of his Department's budgets the remaining £228 million required to fund the provisions of the Personal Care at Home Bill will be taken; and how much will be taken from each budget. [318889]

Phil Hope: In 2010-11, we are meeting half of the full implementation costs—£420 million—as implementation starts from October. These are being met as explained in my reply on 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 296W to the hon. Member for Boston and Skegness (Mark Simmonds).

The remaining half year costs will be found from 2011-12. Detailed budget prioritisation decisions for 2011-12 onwards will be taken once the outcome of the next Spending Review is available, as the Department's total budget beyond 2010-11 is not yet known.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 296W, on social services: finance, whether the savings in *(a)* administration and *(b)* management consultancy spending will be made in (i) his Department and (ii) primary care trusts. [318890]

Phil Hope: The savings will be made in the Department.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of funding that local councils will have to contribute to implementation of the free social care at home scheme. [320272]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 553W.

Leukaemia: Drugs

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to receive the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's recommendations on the use of dasatinib and nilotinib for chronic myeloid leukaemia patients. [319180]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I understand that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) currently expects to issue final guidance to the NHS on the use of dasatinib and nilotinib for the treatment of imatinib-intolerant chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) in June 2010. Details of this appraisal are available on NICE'S website at:

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA/Wave17/18

NICE will schedule the technology appraisal of dasatinib and nilotinib for the treatment of imatinib-resistant CML into the review of its published guidance on the use of imatinib for the treatment of CML.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with chronic myeloid leukaemia have been prescribed *(a)* dasatinib and *(b)* nilotinib in the last 12 months. [319181]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information is not collected centrally on the number of people prescribed drugs or for what purpose drugs are prescribed.

In the period October 2008 to September 2009, the latest 12 months available, there were 109 prescriptions for dasatinib and less than 100 for nilotinib written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community in England.

Information for hospital prescribing is not available.

Medical Treatments Abroad

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people referred by NHS commissioners for proton therapy treatment abroad in each of the last five years. [319935]

Ann Keen: Proton beam therapy became a nationally commissioned service in April 2008. Prior to this, the service was commissioned by individual primary care trusts (PCTs) and figures are not available on the numbers of patients referred for treatment abroad.

In 2008-09, 24 patients were referred to the proton reference panel for consideration for proton beam therapy treatment. Of these, eight patients were turned down by the panel, six were not treated by the centre for clinical reasons, and 10 patients were treated.

In 2009-10, 67 patients were referred to the proton reference panel. Of these, 30 patients were accepted for treatment: and 17 of them received or are currently receiving treatment during 2009-10. Six patients were accepted by the panel, but were not treated by the centre for clinical reasons and three patients require more surgery before being considered further for proton beam therapy. Nine patients are still being considered by the panel.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to reply to the letter of 2 February 2010 from the hon. Member for Walsall North concerning a constituent. [320349]

Phil Hope: A reply was issued to my hon. Friend on 3 March 2010.

Mental Health Services

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many independent investigations into cases of patients receiving treatment for mental health reasons have been commissioned in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [320351]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Mid-Bedfordshire (Nadine Dorries) on 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 134W.

NHS: Negligence

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many claims for clinical negligence as a result of NHS hospital mistreatment for which compensation has been awarded were made in each of the last five years; what the monetary value of the five largest payments was in each such year; and which hospitals were involved. [319913]

Ann Keen: The NHS Litigation Authority covers claims made against the national health service in England only. Claims are not made under the heading of mistreatment and an answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

NHS: Procurement

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contracts have been awarded through the NHS Supply Chain Framework for the Supply of Endoscopy Products *(a)* following a mini-competition and *(b)* under the terms of the framework itself. [320270]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: NHS Supply Chain has the following endoscopy framework agreements:

Endoscope Disinfectants and Detergents
Endoscopy Consumables
Endosurgery
Rigid Endoscopes
Flexible Endoscopy
Automated Endoscope Reprocessors.

'Endoscope Disinfectants and Detergents' is a national framework established in 2009 with nine suppliers. All orders and deliveries are via NHS Supply Chain. There are no mini-competitions or quotations. 186 trusts have made purchases against the framework from April 2009 to the present.

'Endoscopy Consumables' is a national framework established in 2008 with 10 suppliers. All orders and deliveries are via NHS Supply Chain. There are no mini-competitions or quotations. 170 trusts have used the framework to make purchases from April 2009 to the present.

'Endosurgery' is a national framework. There have been six mini-competitions and 210 trusts have gone though this framework. The framework has 17 suppliers and most purchases are made through NHS Supply Chain. However, there is a mini-competition option whereby trusts can create a local pricing agreement under the coverage of the national framework.

'Rigid Endoscopes' is a national, direct-supply framework. There have been no mini-competitions and 120 trusts have gone through this framework. Trusts request quotations for equipment from NHS Supply Chain and these quotes are then compiled by suppliers and subsequent orders and deliveries are facilitated directly. There is an option for mini-competitions but as yet no trusts have chosen this option.

There have been 340 contracts awarded though the 'Flexible Endoscopy' framework, with one mini-competition. 175 trusts have gone through this framework. The contracts are delivered direct from suppliers against this framework.

There have been 56 contracts awarded through the 'Automated Endoscope Reprocessors' framework. 36 trusts have gone though this framework, with no mini-competitions. The contracts are delivered direct from suppliers against this framework.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of NHS trusts that have chosen to *(a)* purchase endoscopy products through NHS Supply Chain's Framework for the Supply of Endoscopy Products and *(b)* buy directly from suppliers. [320271]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not held centrally.

NHS: Sight Impaired

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department has issued to NHS providers on communication with visually-impaired patients in accessible formats; what systems are in place to monitor the provision of such materials; and if he will make a statement; [319058]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of visually-impaired patients who received communications from NHS providers in accessible formats in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [319060]

(3) what proportion of *(a)* hospitals and *(b)* GP surgeries have used (i) Braille, (ii) large print and (iii) audio to communicate with visually-impaired patients in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [319061]

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of information in hospitals for blind, partially sighted and print-disabled people. [318895]

Phil Hope: Information on the proportion of national health service providers that have provided Braille, large print, audio or other accessible communications to patients in general practice (GP) surgeries or hospitals in each of the last five years is not collected centrally.

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 confers a duty on NHS providers to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people, including making information accessible to people with visual impairments. The NHS Constitution also commits the NHS to offer patients accessible information to enable them to participate fully in their health care decisions.

Under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 each NHS organisation is required to develop a Disability Equality Scheme, based on real engagement with local people, including those who are blind or partially sighted. They are required to implement the action plans set out in their schemes; and report annually on their progress, the results of their information gathering and how this information has been used.

Listed Government Departments, including the Department, must publish a report setting out an overview of progress on disability equality as well as proposals for co-ordinated action between authorities in the sector to progress disability equality. The Department's first report, which was published in December 2008, acknowledges that patients who are blind or have severe visual impairments report significantly lower levels of satisfaction when making choices following a referral for hospital treatment. The introduction of data broken down by impairment in national GP access and choice surveys will allow NHS organisations in addressing such differences in satisfaction levels.

To support service improvements, the Department has also co-produced "Improving Access, Responding to Patients: a 'how to' guide for GP practices" in 2009. This guide brings together good practice case studies with step-by-step guides and top tips, developed and disseminated by national stakeholders. It has been distributed to every GP practice, primary care trust and strategic health authority in England and a copy has already been placed in the Library.

Putney Hospital: Valuation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate the district valuer has made of the monetary value of the Putney Hospital site in each of the last 10 years. [320138]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not held centrally.

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many units of Swine influenza vaccine are available to be dispensed to UK patients. [319958][1]

Gillian Merron: As of 26 February 2010, the amount of swine influenza vaccine available to be dispensed was 25.3 million doses, held centrally, plus the stock currently held in the national health service across the United Kingdom.

This is based on the total amount of swine influenza vaccine delivered to the United Kingdom from Baxter and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) at approximately 38.5 million doses, less the total number of doses sent out to the NHS England, up to 24 February, which was approximately 13.2 million.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the annual requirement for biomass for burning in *(a)* power stations and *(b)* for renewable heat; and what proportion of that requirement (i) is currently imported and (ii) will be imported in each of the next five years. [320002]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 3 March 2010]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Sherwood (Paddy Tipping), *Official Report,* 23 February 2010, column 466W which gave estimates for the amount of biomass needed for new power stations. For existing heat and power installations, the Department's Digest of UK Energy Statistics shows that in 2008 3.23 million tonnes (oil equivalent) of biomass were used to generate electricity and 0.74 million tonnes (oil equivalent) of biomass were used to generate heat. Assuming an average energy value of 18 gigajoules per tonne of biomass, this gives a total of 7.5 million tonnes of biomass for electricity generation and 1.7 million tonnes of biomass for heat generation.

Full records are not currently available for the country of origin of biomass used in the UK. Robust biomass supply chains are only now becoming established across the UK and biomass fuels are increasingly traded as a global commodity. The share of imports will depend on numerous factors, including progress with developing indigenous supply chains for waste wood, virgin material and energy crops. Heat-only installations are more likely to use UK sourced feedstocks.

The European Commission's recently published recommendations for sustainability criteria for solid biomass include a recommendation to monitor the origin of feedstocks. DECC will make an announcement later this month, setting out what actions the Government can now take to introduce sustainability standards for biomass used for heat and electricity in the UK. We already require sustainability reporting under the renewables obligation. This requirement was introduced in April 2009 and the first reporting cycle is due later this year. The sustainability report will include data on the type and origin of biomass used for electricity generation.

Carbon Emissions

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to paragraph 7.21, page 123, of the pre-Budget report, Cm 7747, when he plans to publish decarbonisation pathways to 2050. [320374]

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[1] *[Official Report, 8 April 2010, Vol. 508, c. 16MC.]*

Joan Ruddock: In the Low Carbon Transition Plan, the Government committed to publish Pathways to 2050 in spring 2010.

Departmental Paper

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* brands of (i) paper and (ii) paper products his Department uses; and what his Department's policy is on the procurement of those materials. [320040]

Joan Ruddock: The information is as follows:

(a) The principal suppliers that the Department has used in the current financial year are Banner Office Supplies, The Office Depot, The Paper Company and Lyreco.

(b) The most common paper brand used is Evolve 100 per cent. recycled paper. Other brands sourced have predominantly been the suppliers' own brands. For other paper products the Department uses appropriate brands that are available from the preferred suppliers catalogues. It is not possible to identify all of these without incurring undue cost.

The Department's policy is to source paper that is 100 per cent. recycled wherever possible and that the usage of paper is kept to a minimum. All printers and photocopiers are set to double sided printing as the standard default and printing of e-mails is discouraged.

Energy Conservation

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many homes had received assistance under the Community Energy Saving Programme on the latest date for which figures are available. [320311]

Joan Ruddock: The Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) went live on 1 September 2009. There are currently six CESP schemes that have commenced—one in Walsall, one in Bristol and four in Birmingham. Together these schemes will deliver energy efficiency benefits to around 900 households.

Figures for the number of completed actions in households will be available from 1 May 2010 when Ofgem is required to provide its first report to the Secretary of State.

Energy: Infrastructure

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* quantity, *(b)* duration of storage and *(c)* toxicity of the hazardous material to be kept on the 11 nuclear power sites assessed in the consultation on the Draft National Policy Statements for Energy Infrastructure. [319968]

Mr. Kidney: As part of the Draft Nuclear National Policy Statement (NPS) an appraisal of sustainability was carried out. The Main Appraisal of Sustainability Report[1] (Chapter 6) and Annex K[2] present the findings for the arrangements for managing radioactive and hazardous wastes arising from the Nuclear NPS.

The main hazardous material that is expected to be stored at new nuclear power stations will be spent fuel. It is the operator's responsibility to provide storage facilities for the waste produced. Storage facilities will have to satisfy the requirements of the independent safety, security and environmental regulators. The quantity of spent fuel produced by a single new nuclear power station depends on a number of factors, including the capacity of the plant, its operational lifetime and various other operational considerations.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has estimated that an AP-1000 reactor operating for 60 years would give rise to an estimated 2,560 spent fuel assemblies, equivalent to 640 disposal canisters. And that a UK EPR reactor operating for 60 years would give rise to an estimated 3,600 spent fuel assemblies, equivalent to 900 disposal canisters.

It is possible that interim storage facilities for spent fuel could be required for around 160 years (estimated 60 years station operating life, 100 years cooling period prior to disposal). However, the estimate of up to 100 years cooling is based on a set of conservative assumptions and there are a number of factors that may shorten the actual storage period that is likely to be required.

The actual cooling time required will depend in practice upon the level of burn-up achieved, designs of the disposal package, the disposal concept and design and its geological setting, which will all offer scope for optimisation and consequent shortening of the required storage time.

The activity and dose rate of spent fuel from new reactors are presented in the NDA's Disposability Assessment Reports for the AP-1000[4] and UK EPR[5] reactors. The NDA concluded in its assessments that the radionuclide characteristics of spent fuel from the AP-1000 and UK EPR reactors are consistent with those from Sizewell B Pressurised Water Reactor.

There will also be other hazardous materials produced. These will include intermediate level wastes (ILW), low level wastes (LLW) and non-radioactive hazardous wastes.

The volume of packaged ILW (both operational and decommissioning) produced by a UK EPR operating for 60 years is estimated to be in the range 2,097-3,651m^3 dependent upon the packaging system used. For an AP-1000 operating for 60 years, the volume of packaged ILW produced is estimated to be around 3,450m^3.

The Government expects that ILW will be safely and securely stored on site as it is for current UK nuclear power stations. The ILW will be disposed of when a geological disposal facility is available to accept this waste.

The NDA has assessed the activity and dose rate from ILW and reported that the principal radionuclides present in the wastes are similar to those present in the wastes arising from Sizewell B Pressurised Water Reactor.

Long-term storage on site of LLW and non-radioactive hazardous wastes is not expected to take place. Regulators discourage accumulation of waste at sites of origin if a disposal route is available. These wastes are expected to be disposed of promptly, after it has been generated, through a suitable disposal route.

[1] DECC. "Appraisal of Sustainability of the draft Nuclear National Policy Statement: Main Report." November 2009:

http://data.energynpsconsultation.decc.gov.uk/documents/aos/mainreport.pdf

[2] DECC. "Appraisal of Sustainability: Radioactive and Hazardous Waste..November 2009."

http://data.energynpsconsultation.decc.gov.uk/documents/aos/wastematrices.pdf

[3] Burn-up is a measure of the amount of energy extracted for a given mass of uranium. Units are GWd/tU (gigawatt days per tonne uranium).

[4] NDA. "Geological Disposal Generic Design Assessment: Summary of Disposability Assessment for Wastes and Spent Fuel arising from Operation of the Westinghouse AP1000." October 2009.

http://www.nda.gov.uk/documents/upload/TN-17548-Generic-Design-Assessment-Summary-of-DA-for-Wastes-and-SF-arising-from-Operation-of-APPWR-October-2009.pdf

[5] NDA. "Geological Disposal Generic Design Assessment: Summary of Disposability Assessment for Wastes and Spent Fuel arising from Operation of the UK EPR." October 2009.

http://www.nda.gov.uk/documents/upload/TN-17548-Generic-Design-Assessment-Summary-of-Disposability-Assessment-for-Wastes-and-Spent-Fuel-arising-from-Operation-of-the-EPWR.pdf

Energy: Technology

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent promoting the development and deployment of *(a)* low carbon and *(b)* energy efficiency technology in 2008-09; how much such funding has been allocated to those technologies in each of the next three years; what assessment he has made of the contribution to the environmental technology economy made by projects in each area funded by his Department; and what mechanisms are in place to monitor the level of that contribution. [320057]

Joan Ruddock: The principal funding mechanism for demonstrating low carbon and energy efficiency technologies in 2008-09 was the Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF). In 2008-09 it spent £92 million. Spending figures for 2009-10 will be finalised after the end of the financial year. Final allocations for 2010-11 have not been agreed. In addition to the ETF, in Budget 2009, we announced up to £90 million for FEED studies in support of the first CCS demonstration competition, and a further £45 million for microgeneration. Budget 2009 also announced £155 million for low carbon technologies in 2009-10 and 2010-11. A number of other DECC-funded schemes, such as funding for interest-free energy efficiency loans for small and medium enterprises, also support deployment and demonstration of low carbon technologies.

No formal assessment has been made of the contribution to the environmental technology economy consequent on this funding. Economic impact was one of the considerations for allocation of the low carbon investment funding announced in 2009. It is our intention to evaluate programmes operated under the ETF and other technology support.

Warm Front Scheme

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Warm Front assessors have been contracted to the Warm Front scheme; how many assessments each assessor carried out on average in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many assessors his Department expects to remain under contract from 1 May 2010. [320263]

Mr. Kidney: There are currently 164 assessors contracted to the Warm Front scheme.

185,103 surveys were completed between April 2009 and January 2010. The number of assessors contracted to the scheme has fluctuated over this period; it is not therefore possible to provide an accurate figure for the number of assessments each assessor has carried out over the period.

Eaga, the Warm Front scheme manager, is currently considering scheme activity for 2010-11. As part of this, eaga will consider the anticipated level of assessments to be carried out, which in turn will determine the number of assessors required for the year.

Wood: Transport

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration is given to the average length of lorry journey in transporting wood from the processing plant to the international port in assessing the carbon footprint of biomass imports. [320520]

Joan Ruddock: The average length of lorry journey in transporting wood from the processing plant to the international port is not collated as part of UK biomass sustainability reporting.

However, the Environment Agency are developing a tool to enable power generators to determine the carbon emissions associated with their use of biomass. This tool will allow users to model Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions according to feedstock type, agriculture practices and transport mode.

The European Commission's recently published report for sustainability criteria for solid biomass includes a recommendation to monitor the origin of feedstocks. DECC will make a statement later this month, setting out what actions the Government can now take to introduce sustainability standards for biomass used for heat and electricity in the UK. We already require sustainability reporting under the Renewables Obligation. This requirement was introduced in April 2009 and the first reporting cycle is due later this year. The sustainability report will include the available data on the type and country of origin of the biomass used for electricity generation.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter of 7 January 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Ms K Morrison. [319563]

Joan Ruddock: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change replied to the right hon. Member on the 2 March with apologies for the delay.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Palaeography: Universities

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of places available for the study of palaeography at universities. [320198]

Mr. Lammy: I last met the director general of the Russell Group on 23 February. We discussed higher education funding, among other subjects.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies are in transition prior to being managed out; how long on average the transition window between notification and exit has been in (i) his Department and its predecessors and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the salary costs of staff in transition in each such year; and what proportion of employees in transition were classed as being so for more than six months in each year. [313245]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created in June 2009 from the former Department for Innovation for Universities and Skills (DIUS) and former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). DIUS was created in 2007 from the former DTI and the Department for Education and Skills.

Between July 2004 and the end of 2006, the Department of Trade and Industry had 488 people in transition; the average transition for these people was approximately three months; no estimate was made of the salary costs of these staff during this period and approximately 17 per cent. of employees in transition were classed as being surplus for more than six months.

During 2007, DI/BERR had 491 people in transition; the average transition was seven weeks; no estimate was made of the salary costs of these staff during this period and approximately 5 per cent. of those in transition were classed as being surplus for more than six months. DIUS had nobody who was classed as surplus.

During 2008, there were fewer than five people in transition in BERR. Further information is therefore suppressed on grounds of confidentiality. The information was not collected in former DIUS.

During 2009 the Department (DIUS and BERR and then BIS) had 11 people in transition; the average transition was 10 weeks; no estimate was made of the salary costs of these staff during this period and approximately 35 per cent. of those in transition were classed as being surplus for more than six months.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 4 March 2010:

The Minister of State, for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has asked me to reply to your question regarding how many employees in (a) his Department and (b) each of its agencies are in transition prior to being managed out; how long on average the transition window between notification and exit has been in (i) his Department and its predecessors and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the salary costs of staff in transition in each such year; and what proportion of employees in transition were classed as being so for more than six months in each year.

The Insolvency Service has not had any staff in transition within the last five years prior to being managed out, therefore no estimation of salary costs was necessary.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 1 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question, tabled on 20 January, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking how many employees are in transition prior to being managed out; how long on average the transition window between notification and exit has been in each of the last five years; and for estimates of the salary costs of staff in transition in each such year together with the proportion of employees in transition which were classed as being so for more than six months in each year.

There are currently no employees within the Agency who have been officially declared surplus.

With regard to the position over the last five years, I am advised that I am unable, on grounds of confidentiality, to provide information where there are less than five people in this Agency. There is, however, one instance that is in the public [illegible] described on page 33 of the 2007-2008 Annual Report and Accounts of the Agency (then known as the National Weights & Measures Laboratory).

Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 25 January 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 20 January 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office began its first redeployment exercise in April 2009. A total of 48 staff were declared surplus in 2009/10 and therefore in transition prior to being managed out. A total of 40 staff have been redeployed, 19 to internal vacancies and 21 externally. There are currently 8 staff in transition. On average, the 40 staff redeployed remained in the transition for 4 months. The budgeted salary cost for this exercise was £425k. 16 people were in transition for more than 6 months.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 22 January 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 20 January 2010, UIN 313245, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House has not managed out any employees from the Agency in the last five years.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many brand managers his Department and its predecessors have employed in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [320408]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has one member of staff responsible for managing the Department's brand. This includes the publication and dissemination of the brand guidelines and advising on their application. It is estimated that 25 per cent. of this person's time is spent on branding related activities. Based on the average pay costs for a member of staff at this grade this represents a staff cost of approximately £11,241 in 2009/10.

The former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) each had one member of staff responsible for brand management. The average pay costs for this were:

	£
BERR 2008/09	11,653
BERR/DTI 2007/08	10,512

Figures for staff costs for earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	£
DIUS 2008/09	6,300
DIUS 2007/08	12,000

The figure for DIUS in 2007/08 is the total staff cost on branding activity as a larger percentage of staff time was spent on branding issues in the first six months of the Department's existence.

Higher Education: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the provision of child care places by universities for students with young children. [320201]

Mr. Lammy: I have received joint representations about nursery closures from the National Union of Students, the University and College Union and UNISON. The provision of nurseries for the children of students is a matter for individual institutions. In addition to the standard student support package, the Government provides generous support to help students with children. A child care grant of up to £13,260 per year is available for eligible full-time, undergraduate students with children in registered and approved child care. In addition, for academic year 2009/10, student parents may also receive a parents' learning allowance of up to £1,508 to meet course-related costs.

Learning and Skills Council for England

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the Learning and Skills Council to publish on its website the minutes of its National Council Meeting on 9 December 2009. [320275]

Kevin Brennan: The acting chief executive of the Learning and Skills Council has recently undertaken a review of its National Council minutes and decided to make public the full minutes from these meetings, subject to the redaction of any sensitive or confidential information which is exempt under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. The minutes of the 9 December 2009 meeting were published on the LSC's website on 26 February 2010. These can be found at:

www.lsc.gov.uk

Minimum Wage: Glasgow

Mr. Bain: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in Glasgow North East constituency aged *(a)* between 18 and 21 and *(b)* 22 years and over have been paid at the rate of the national minimum wage since its introduction. [319970]

Mr. McFadden: Data for earnings are not available at the constituency level because of small sample sizes at these levels in the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE).

Due to rounding in the conversion of payroll data into hourly wage rates and small sample sizes for 18 to 21-year-olds in ASHE, it is not possible at the regional level to infer the number of employees earning exactly at the National Minimum Wage (NMW) with sufficient certainty. However it is possible to estimate the number who were paid at or below the NMW.

The most recent figure from BIS analysis of the 2009 ASHE indicates the number of jobholders aged 18 to 21 who were paid at or below the NMW in April 2009 in Scotland was 11,000. The number of jobholders aged 22 and over who were paid at or below the NMW in Scotland was 51,000.

Science: Research

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding had been *(a)* allocated to and *(b)* disbursed from the Science and Research Budget to the (i) Large Facilities Capital fund, (ii) University Capital fund, (iii) Higher Education Innovation fund, (iv) Public Sector Research Establishments fund, (v) Science and Society fund and (vi) other programmes funded from that Budget in 2009-10 on the latest date for which figures are available. [319844]

Mr. Lammy: The Science and Research Budget funding figures for 2009-10 are as follows:

		£ million
	Allocated 2009-10	*Expenditure to 31 January 2010*
(i) Large Facilities Capital Fund[1]	138	[3]—
(ii) Research Capital investment Fund[1]	258	194
(iii) Higher Education Innovation Fund[2]	99	73
(iv) Public Sector Research Establishments Fund[2]	12	11
(v) Science and Society activities[2]	15	10
(vi) Other programmes[2]	9	5

[1] Capital programme.

[2] Near Cash programme.

[3] There is no expenditure recorded against the Large Facilities Capital Fund as this fund is used to make additional allocations to research councils for approved projects. To date £172 million has been allocated to research councils which includes £50 million of capital allocation brought forwards from 2010-11 under the capital acceleration scheme.

Note:

These figures do not include the allocations to and the expenditure of the research councils and the national academies.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 5 March 2010

SCOTLAND

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many full-time equivalent staff of each grade are employed by his Department to assist special advisers. [321142]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not maintain records of the administrative time provided to special advisers and therefore is unable to identify the full-time equivalent figure. However, no staff are solely dedicated to supporting special advisers.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Democratic Republic of Congo

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether an environmental impact assessment has been conducted for each *(a)* current and *(b)* proposed road building project funded by his Department in Democratic Republic of Congo; how much funding for each such project was allocated to reducing the effect on these projects; and what the percentage of the budget for the environment and local population was in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [320086]

Mr. Thomas: All road rehabilitation projects funded by the Department of International Development (DFID) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are subject to Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs). The following amounts have been allocated to address environmental and social impacts of road rehabilitation projects currently funded by DFID:

£12 million, or 15 per cent., of a total contribution of £78 million from 2009 to 2013 for the 'Pro Routes' programme, in partnership with the World Bank.

£476,733, or 13 per cent., of a total contribution of £3.66 million from July 2009 to July 2011 for rehabilitation of roads in eastern DRC, in partnership with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

£435,949, or 15 per cent., of a total budget of £2.79 million for the same period to rehabilitate a road from Kisangani to Ubundu in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding has been allocated to the Congo rainforest region as part of the £1.5 billion commitment to the fast start global financial package to help developing countries address climate change and its impacts agreed at Copenhagen; and if he will increase the fast-track funding contribution to $800 million per year. [320089]

Mr. Thomas: The Prime Minister has committed up to £1.5 billion in Fast Start finance over the next three financial years from 2010-11 to 2012-13. 20 per cent. of this total will be allocated for forestry, including planned investment in the Congo Basin Forest Fund. We are currently developing plans for 2010-11 and will determine priorities for 2011-12 and 2012-13 as part of the next spending review.

Departmental Paper

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* brands of (i) paper and (ii) paper products his Department uses; and what his Department's policy is on the procurement of those materials. [320038]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) uses Office of Government Commerce (OGC) framework contracts for the purchase of all standard paper items such as A4 paper and envelopes in the UK. The majority of products are purchased from Banner Business Services, including general use paper from their Evolve range, which is made from 100 per cent. recycled content. More detailed information on paper products cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Temporary Staff

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development from which companies his Department sourced temporary staff in each of the last three years; how many temporary staff his Department employed in each year; and what the monetary value of the contracts with each such company was in each such year. [320016]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has formal arrangements with Margaret Hodge, Josephine Sammons and Manpower to provide temporary staff at the administrative level. In addition, professional and specialist temporary staff can be appointed through specialist suppliers without the involvement of DFID's Human Resources Division. Subsequently, there is no central record of the total number of temporary staff employed or the associated costs for each of the last three years. This information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

Food: Overseas Aid

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department plans to take to implement its commitment to agricultural and food security research related to developing countries supported by the UK science base in co-operation with UK research councils. [319936]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing funds for agricultural research to the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). This enables us to harness the UK's world-class bioscience base to address the challenges of agricultural growth and food security in developing countries.

We fund two programmes jointly with BBSRC: a crop science programme, to which DFID contributes £5.34 million; and a livestock disease research programme, to which DFID contributes £9.7 million.

We are exploring a third collaboration with BBSRC into crop science which can help withstand the impact of climate change. DFID is also working with the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and other public sector funders to improve coordination of agriculture and food security related research.

Haiti: Earthquakes

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what equipment was used by fire and rescue personnel deployed to Haiti; and if he will make a statement. [320284]

Mr. Michael Foster: The following equipment was used by the UK fire and rescue personnel deployed to Haiti: technical search equipment including cameras, listening devices and dogs; light concrete breaking equipment; hand tools including percussion rescue tool (PRT); chainsaws; lighting and generators; and medical kit including splints, pain relief and stretchers.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided to each *(a)* multi-national organisation and *(b)* UK non-governmental organisation which it has funded as part of the Haiti relief operation; and if he will make a statement. [320285]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details of funding provided by the Department for International Development (DFID) to non-governmental organisations and multilateral organisations to help the relief operation in Haiti are provided in the following table.

	£
Non governmental organisation	
Merlin	398,998
Agency for Technical Co-operation and Development (ACTED)	400,000
Action Against Hunger (ACF)	1,000,000
Handicap International	500,000
Oxfam	1,000,000
Multilateral organisation	
Office for Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	1,000,000
World Food Programme (WFP)	2,000,000
Pan-American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO)	300,000
International Organisation for Migration (IOM)	1,120,000
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	1,000,000

International Assistance

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps he has taken to assess the effectiveness of his Department's international aid. [320058]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) prioritises steps to ensure that all our aid is effective, whether delivered by DFID or through multilateral organisations.

For example we have recently conducted Portfolio Reviews in the Education and Health sectors which have shown that DFID is delivering excellent value. DFID's bilateral aid to the education sector, delivered through Government systems, funds an estimated 5 million children through primary school. This aid is funding more children in developing countries than the number attending primary schools in the UK at just 2 per cent. of the cost. Similar reviews on Governance and Civil Society are currently under way.

Millennium Development Goals

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent estimate is of the additional aid required from contributing states in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals. [319953]

Mr. Michael Foster: At the G8 Summit in L'Aquila last year the UK successfully called for an international assessment of what is needed to achieve the MDGs. The needs assessment will take a broad based approach to what is needed to achieve the MDGs, retaining aid as a central component, while also taking account of other issues such as trade, aid effectiveness, climate change and international and domestic policy frameworks. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is currently undertaking this assessment and is due to produce a report in May.

Rwanda: Politics and Government

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent progress has been made on issues covered by point B.10 of the renewed Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and the Government of Rwanda, with particular reference to the registration of opposition parties in advance of presidential elections in August 2010. [320173]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government are closely monitoring the progress made on the registration of political parties in Rwanda. Ten political parties are currently registered and a further two parties are attempting to register. The Department for International Development (DFID) is aware that some parties are reporting registration difficulties and we are pressing the Government of Rwanda to ensure that full political rights, within the framework of Rwandan law, are upheld.

Uganda: Armed Conflict

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian assistance his Department has provided to those displaced and otherwise affected by the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army; and what steps his Department is taking to ensure the *(a)* delivery and *(b)* security of this assistance. [320343]

Mr. Thomas: In 2009 the Department for International Development (DFID) provided over £100 million for humanitarian assistance to those affected by the activities of the Lords Resistance Army (LRA). Of this, around £70 million was provided through UN Humanitarian Pooled Funds, and the remainder through other UN agencies, NGOs and other partners.

Monitoring and security procedures are built into all DFID programmes as standard. This allows staff to assess the delivery and impact of UK aid, and closely monitor security risks. All UN pooled funds include mechanisms that enable all donors to monitor the delivery and security of assistance.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total value of overpayments made by the Child Support Agency was in each of the last three years. [318741]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the total value of overpayments made by the Child Support Agency was in each of the last three years. (318741)

The total value of child maintenance payments overpaid to a parent with care is included in the table below. This includes figures over each of the last three financial years to January 2010.

	£
April 2007 to March 2008	6,203,754.72
April 2008 to March 2009	6,510,103.73
April 2009 to January 2010	6,497,860.88

These figures are for overpayments made by non-resident parents as a result of retrospective changes of circumstances and a consequent downward valuation of maintenance assessments. These recalculations usually occur as an outcome of new information being provided to the agency.

Where an overpayment is made the money is refunded to the non-resident parent.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Child Support Agency's policy is on payment by credit card from individuals in arrears on their maintenance payments. [318742]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the Child Support Agency's policy is on payment by credit card from individuals in arrears. [318742]

The Child Support Agency has had the facility to accept credit and debit card payments since the introduction of Regulation 3 of the Child support (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2006. This was introduced to provide access to a convenient and widely used method of payment.

The policy is to ensure the best payment agreement is reached with the non-resident parent without jeopardising the flow of regular maintenance payments. It is for the non-resident parent to determine whether it is appropriate to use a credit card to make the payments required by such an agreement.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what advice is given by the Child Support Agency to people liable for maintenance payments on the use of credit cards to clear their arrears. [318745]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what advice is given by the Child Support Agency to people liable for maintenance payments who are (a) in arrears, (b) late in making payments and (c) behind on their payment schedules on the use of credit cards to clear their arrears. [318745]

The Child Support Agency's Debt Steer states that the starting point when negotiating an arrears payment plan is to require full repayment immediately. Where this is not possible, the aim will be to reach an agreement that will achieve full recovery within at most two years, with the discretion to accept an arrangement extending beyond this period where a client's circumstances warrant it.

In all cases involving arrears, caseworkers are instructed to discuss payment options that could be available to the client. Caseworkers do not provide financial advice, or recommend one payment option over another. Caseworkers can also signpost clients to other, independent organisations for financial help and advice where appropriate.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of absent parents in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Angus constituency the Child Support Agency is managing. [318801]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many cases of absent parents in (a) Scotland and (b) Angus constituency the Child Support Agency is managing. [318801]

In December 2009, there are 112,810 live and assessed cases in Scotland and 2,170 in the parliamentary constituency of Angus. These figures include old scheme cases with a full or interim maintenance assessment as well as current scheme cases with a full maintenance calculation or default maintenance decision. Figures are adjusted to reflect those cases administered clerically.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases relating to absent parents resident in Milton Keynes the Child Support Agency is managing. [319003]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases relating to absent parents resident in Milton Keynes the Child Support Agency is managing. [319003]

Latest figures available show as at December 2009, the number of cases in Milton Keynes is 4,480. These figures include old scheme cases with a full maintenance assessment as well as current scheme cases with a full maintenance calculation or default maintenance decision. Figures are adjusted to reflect those cases administered clerically.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases managed by the Child Support Agency relate to absent parents in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Moray constituency. [319674]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many cases managed by the Child Support Agency relate to absent parents in (a) Scotland and (b) Moray constituency. [319674]

Latest figures show as at December 2009, the number of cases in Scotland is 111,050; of these 1,760 are in the Parliamentary Constituency of Moray. These figures include old scheme cases with a full or interim maintenance assessment as well as current scheme cases with a full maintenance calculation or default maintenance decision. Figures are adjusted to reflect those cases administered clerically.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Council Tax Benefits

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures introduced by her Department since May 2005 have made it easier for *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* low income earners to claim council tax benefit. [319609]

Helen Goodman: Council tax benefit provides financial assistance with payment of council tax bills to people on low income and plays an important role in helping to combat pensioner and child poverty. Modernising and simplifying the claims process is a key part of the Department's strategy to increase benefit take-up among both pensioners and people of working age. We are also introducing a range of measures to improve awareness among staff, customers and advisers of the help that council tax benefit can give to people both in and out of work.

The main focus of activity to help poorer pensioners has been the automation of the claims process. In December 2005 a shortened, three page claim form was introduced for housing benefit and council tax benefit replacing a claim form that ran to 28 pages. Completion of the form was undertaken on behalf of the customer by officials in the Pension, Disability and Carers Service at the same time as a claim to pension credit was made over the telephone. The form was then sent to the customer to check and sign and return to the local authority.

From November 2008, the need for the customer to complete and sign a claim form was removed and housing benefit and council tax benefit claims data have been sent direct to the local authority.

This automated claims process has been further enhanced and since January 2010, all local authorities are able to receive secure electronic transfer of data making the claiming process virtually automatic for all pensioner customers.

Jobcentre Plus has successfully rolled out a new process which makes claiming benefits, including council tax benefit, easier and faster for people moving into and out of employment. The in and out of work process involves Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and local authorities, working with Jobcentre Plus to smooth the transition for customers moving in and out of work reducing the number of organisations the customer has to contact at the point they make a new claim or when they start work. Jobcentre Plus gathers all the information and evidence that is needed for housing benefit, council tax benefit and tax credits improving the speed and accuracy of information sharing so that the right benefit is paid more quickly.

The Department continues to explore ways to make the claiming process more automatic through wider use of data sharing and also by data matching to assist local authorities to identify customers with potential entitlement. It will continue to look for service improvements on offer to pensioners for example by partnership working with local authorities and other agencies and signposting to the most appropriate contact point too pursue a benefit claim.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent staff there have been in her Department's *(a)* Fraud Investigation Service and *(b)* Organised Fraud Unit in each year since 2006. [316364]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the table (data are not available prior to 2007):

Numbers of full-time equivalent staff in Fraud Investigation Service and Organised Fraud Unit since 2007

Date	*Total number of Fraud Investigation staff (excluding Organised Fraud Unit staff)*	*Total number of Organised Fraud Unit staff*
March 2007	2,785	231
March 2008	2,671	204
March 2009	2,564	214
September 2009	2,557	218

The decrease in the total number of Fraud Investigation Service staff needs to be seen against the pre-recession spending review efficiency challenge. There have been significant productivity gains and elimination of waste that have seen record numbers of benefit thieves caught and sanctioned. The numbers in the Organised Fraud Unit are a reflection of our commitment to tackle the serious and organised fraudsters who abuse the benefits system.

Departmental Written Questions

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many questions tabled for answer on a named day her Department received in each of the last 12 months; and to how many such questions her Department provided a substantive answer on the day named. [305384]

Helen Goodman: The information requested is in the following table:

Named day questions by month tabled

	2009										
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Number answered on or before the named day	20	21	19	9	6	29	34	17	17	14	18
Number answered after the named day	62	85	91	29	47	65	43	44	53	35	34
Total number	82	106	110	38	53	[illegible]	77	61	70	49	52

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of parliamentary questions tabled for written answer by her Department on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive answer on that day. [307546]

Helen Goodman: The Department answered 829 named day questions in session 2008-09, of which 252 (30.4 per cent.) received a substantive reply on the named day.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average time her Department took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313648]

Helen Goodman: In the 12 months to 31 January 2010 the average time taken by the Department to answer *(a)* ordinary written questions was 14.0 sitting days and *(b)* named day questions was 8.9 sitting days.

With effect from the current Session of Parliament, each Department will provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics on the time taken to answer written questions. This implements recommendation 24 of the 3rd report from the Procedure Committee, Session 2008-09.

Housing Benefit

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of claimants of local housing allowance make an additional payment to cover the difference between benefit received and rent paid; and what estimate she has made of the average weekly payment made by such claimants in the latest period for which figures are available. [318637]

Helen Goodman: In August 2009, 48 per cent. of customers who received housing benefit under the local housing allowance arrangements had a shortfall of £23 per week on average. This relates to shortfalls caused by a customer's contractual rent being higher than the appropriate local housing allowance rate.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of those in receipt of housing benefit in the private rented sector, excluding those in receipt of local housing allowance, have their benefit paid to *(a)* their landlord and *(b)* themselves. [318813]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of those in receipt of local housing allowance have their benefit paid to *(a)* their landlord and *(b)* themselves. [318815]

Helen Goodman: The local housing allowance, rolled out from 7 April 2008, uses the appropriate local housing allowance rate, based on the area where the person lives and the size of their household, to determine the maximum amount to be included in the housing benefit calculation. Customers can choose to rent properties with rents below the local housing allowance rate and are able to keep the excess benefit up to a maximum of £15 per week. If the rent is higher than the local housing allowance rate they must make up the difference from other sources of income.

In August 2009, 25 per cent of customers who received housing benefit under the local housing allowance arrangements had their benefit paid to their landlord and 72 per cent had their benefit paid to themselves. For 3 per cent. of customers the payment destination information is not reliably reported.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by her Department on the Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme in *(a)* each of the last three years and *(b)* 2009-10 to date. [316745]

Helen Goodman: Annual expenditure on the Support for Mortgage Interest scheme in the last three years was as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	390
2007-08	430
2008-09	430

The latest available data are for the first quarter of 2009-10, for which the total expenditure on the Support for Mortgage Interest scheme was £120 million.

Source:

DWP Quarterly Statistical Enquiry

Pension Credit: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of pensioners resident in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend eligible for but not claiming pension credit. [320642]

Angela Eagle: Estimates of eligibility are not available below the level of Great Britain.

The latest estimates of the take-up rates and the number of those entitled but not receiving pension credit are published in the report "Income Related Benefits estimates of Take-Up in 2007-08", which is available in the House of Commons Library or on the DWP website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/irb.asp

Social Security Benefits: Aberdeenshire

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals are in receipt of *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* attendance allowance, *(c)* incapacity benefit and *(d)* jobseeker's allowance in Banff and Buchan constituency; and what the average weekly level of each benefit received was in the latest period for which figures are available. [319346]

Jonathan Shaw: Attendance allowance provides an important non-contributory, non-income-related and tax free cash contribution towards the extra costs of severely disabled people. The Government are committed to providing real help to disabled people, particularly through the early stages of economic recovery. This is why the Chancellor announced in the December 2009 pre-Budget report that attendance allowance would be increased by 1.5 per cent.—bringing forward help when it is most needed. Without this commitment, the recent negative growth in the Retail Prices Index would have meant that this benefit would not have increased in 2010.

From 27 October 2008 we replaced incapacity benefits for new customers with the employment and support allowance and a revised medical assessment which focuses on what people can do, as well as what they cannot.

The principal function of pension credit is to tackle pensioner poverty by topping up the incomes of pensioners over 60 to the guaranteed minimum amount appropriate to their circumstances.

The information requested is in the table.

Number of cases in payment and average weekly payment of Pension Credit, Attendance Allowance, Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance and Jobseeker's Allowance in the Banff and Buchan constituency in August 2009

Benefit	*Number of cases in payment*	*Average weekly amount paid (£)*
Pension Credit (households)	4,570	48.81
Attendance Allowance	1,990	59.29
Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance	3,930	94.43
Jobseeker's Allowance	980	62.70

Notes:

1. Benefit recipients are rounded to the nearest 10,
2. Average weekly amounts rounded to the nearest penny.
3. Benefit recipients receiving more than one of these benefits will be counted under each benefit.
4. Attendance allowance totals exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
5. These data do not include claimants of employment and support allowance introduced from October 2008.
6. All data refer to benefit recipients and will therefore exclude credits only and nil payment cases.
7. Household is defined here as the number of individuals or couples in receipt of pension credit and equates to a "benefit unit" which, since 2006, also include same-sex partners. Two individuals who are not partners but live in the same house are counted as separate households.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what mechanisms were in place to monitor the implementation of the financial corrections made by her Department in respect of voluntary pension payments made between 1996 and 2002; [316300]

(2) what financial corrections were made by the Government in respect of reminders for voluntary pensions contributions in each year between 1996 and 2002; and whether those corrections were made only in respect of individuals who had previously made voluntary pension contributions; [316301]

(3) how much has been paid in pension back payments to overseas residents who did not receive reminders about their voluntary pension contributions in each year between 1996 and 2002. [316302]

Angela Eagle: For the tax years 1996-07 to 2001-02 deficiency notices inviting customers with gaps in their national insurance records to pay voluntary contributions were temporarily suspended. Following the suspension my Department was responsible for contacting those people who reached state pension age between 6 April 1998 and 24 October 2004, and were due to receive a deficiency notice for one of more of the above tax years. An exercise started in September 2004 to contact such customers, where it would be beneficial for them to consider paying voluntary contributions.

Regulations allow for any customer who reached state pension age between 6 April 1998 and 24 October 2004 to pay voluntary contributions for the tax years 1996-07 to 2001-02. It is not possible to identify separately those who have made voluntary contributions after contact by my Department and those who have made them through their own inquiries. To date, following payment of voluntary contributions by individual customers, arrears of state pension amounting to £84.2 million have been paid to customers in Great Britain and £30 million to customers resident overseas. This is based on current information as customers still have until 5 April 2010 to decide whether to pay such voluntary contributions for these years. An annual breakdown of arrears attributable to voluntary contributions made in each of the tax years is not available.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations she has received on the uprating of the additional state pension; and if she will make a statement. [318621]

Angela Eagle: The Department has received a number of representations on the uprating of additional pension.

Increasing the basic state pension along with pension credit is the most effective way of getting help to over 11 million pensioners in Great Britain.

In the absence of RPI inflation there is no legal requirement to uprate additional pension. We have therefore decided to adopt a more equitable approach to helping pensioners by increasing the basic state pension which goes to virtually all pensioners in Great Britain and pension credit which goes to the poorest.

Work Capability Assessment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* medical training and *(b)* diagnostic experience her Department requires of Atos Medical Ltd. employees contracted to carry out work capability assessments. [318177]

Jonathan Shaw: Atos Healthcare doctors must be fully registered with the General Medical Council (GMC) without current or previous restrictions, conditions or warnings and hold a licence to practice from the date the GMC issues licences. In addition they must have at least three years post full registration (GMC or EEA—European Economic Area equivalent) experience. Alternatively for non EU graduates three years minimum post full registration experience in the doctors native country is required. In individual cases, solely at the discretion of the DWP chief medical adviser, the requirements that no conditions or warnings be attached to registration and that the doctor must have a minimum of three years post registration experience, may be waived.

Atos Healthcare nurses must be fully registered (level 1) Registered General Nurses without current or previous restrictions or cautions with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. In addition they must have at least three years post full registration experience. In individual cases, solely at the discretion of the DWP chief medical adviser, the requirements that no cautions be attached to registration and that the nurse must have a minimum of three years post registration experience, may be waived.

Atos Healthcare doctors and nurses are specifically trained to provide decision making authorities with independent, accurate and authoritative advice and reports on the effects of disability.

Initial Training: varies in detail according to which benefit is involved. However all such training follows a similar basic pattern, as follows:

Theoretical Training: Theoretical training commences with a trainer led theory based course usually delivered to a group of trainees in a classroom setting. Trainees who are new to the work of Atos Healthcare will receive instruction in such areas as disability analysis, customer's rights, equal opportunities and professional standards. Detailed technical information relevant to the benefit concerned is provided. All Atos Healthcare trainers have undergone specific training to prepare them for the role, including practical sessions to enhance their understanding of how adults learn.

Practical Training: Practical Training is the work undertaken by the new recruits that is produced in a controlled environment. For examination centre based assessments the trainee is supervised and appraised by an experienced medical adviser as they complete their introductory cases. In the domiciliary visit based benefits the initial cases are monitored immediately on return to allow feedback to be given without delay.

Demonstration of understanding assessed by multiple choice examination: for incapacity benefit, employment and support allowance and disability living allowance the trainee is required to attain a pass mark in a multiple choice questionnaire before they are allowed to proceed to the practical training. The questionnaire includes questions on the whole range of topics covered in the training course.

Demonstration of understanding by audit: In all benefits the initial cases produced by the trainee are target monitored by an experienced medical adviser and the training cannot be considered as complete until the HCP has demonstrated that their work is acceptable. Whenever any problems are identified appropriate feedback is provided. Further cases are monitored until the work is shown to be satisfactory. If the situation is not rectified the HCP may be required to repeat the entire training process. Continued lack of progress will result in the HCP being offered no further training and no further work.

Approval: All HCPs must be approved by the chief medical adviser to the DWP and separate approval is required for each benefit area in which the HCP is involved. Approval is dependent on successful completion of all stages of their training process and ongoing demonstration that the work being carried out meets a satisfactory standard.

Written Guidelines: As part of the trainees training and ongoing support, HCPs are issued with guidelines pertaining to the benefit involved. These guidance notes provide specific technical advice about the benefit concerned, outline best practise and contain general advice about disability analysis and service to the people with disabilities.

TRANSPORT

A19: North Tyneside

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that the proposed improvements to the junction of the A1058 and A19 are concluded in a way that makes appropriate provision for further future improvement works on the A19 to be carried out, with particular reference to traffic flow arrangements during any period of construction. [320807]

Chris Mole: The proposed improvements by the Highways Agency to the roundabout where the A1058 slip road and the A19 meet are an interim scheme designed to relieve congestion at the roundabout in the short term until a major improvement scheme can be delivered. In the Highways Agency's contract for these works, there will be a requirement to maintain two lanes in both directions for traffic on the A19 during peak periods.

By increasing the available road space at the junction, this scheme should make it easier to manage traffic flow during the construction of further future improvements, such as the major improvement scheme for the Interchange.

During the development of the interim scheme, discussions have been held with the designer of the major improvement scheme to ensure that there is a minimum of abortive work, and that the two schemes are compatible. The precise traffic management requirements for the major improvement scheme will not be decided until a contractor is appointed, but it is envisaged that the scheme can be constructed without major disruption, with two lanes maintained in both directions for traffic on the A19 and A1058 Coast Road during peak periods.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of mutual recognition of concessionary bus travel passes between England and Wales. [320936]

Mr. Khan: It is difficult to predict the cost of mutual recognition of concessionary travel bus passes across the devolved Administrations because the precise pattern of passholder travel is not knowable in advance. However, the Department for Transport has commissioned some research and this suggested that mutual recognition, excluding Northern Ireland, could cost in the region of £11 million per annum. This does not take into account the potentially significant costs of harmonisation of the different concessionary travel schemes which apply in England, Wales and Scotland.

Parking Offences

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what powers the Secretary of State has to *(a)* suspend and *(b)* revoke the civil parking enforcement powers exercised by a local authority; and what criteria he uses to determine whether it is appropriate to exercise such powers. [320958]

Mr. Khan: The Secretary of State has the power to revoke a Statutory Instrument that designates the whole or part of a local authority's area as a civil enforcement area for parking contraventions on the application of that authority. Each application would be considered on its merits. There is no power to suspend such an instrument.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he takes to assess the performance of local authorities in respect of civil parking enforcement. [320959]

Mr. Khan: We have no plans to carry out such assessments. Councillors are accountable to the electorate, rather than to the Government, for the performance of their local authority. The Government's longer term vision for local government involves councils reporting less to central Government and more to their local communities.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Class Sizes

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average staff to pupil ratio is in secondary schools in *(a)* St. Albans constituency and *(b)* England. [320889]

Mr. Coaker: The following table provides the pupil:adult ratios for local authority maintained secondary schools in St. Albans constituency and England, January 2009.

Within school pupil:adult ratio (PAR)[1] in local authority maintained secondary schools[2] Year: January 2009, Coverage: St. Albans constituency and England

	Secondary
England	10.7
St. Albans	11.5

[1] The within school PAR is calculated by dividing the total full-time equivalent (FTE) number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of all teachers and support staff employed in schools, excluding administrative and clerical staff.

[2] Excludes city technology colleges and academies.

Source:

School Census

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Paper

Martin Horwood: To ask the Solicitor-General what *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* brands of (i) paper and (ii) paper products the Law Officers' Departments use; and what the Law Officers' Department's policies are on the procurement of those materials. [320021]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is as follows:

Attorney-General's Office (AGO)

Where possible, the AGO uses recycled paper products. Where it is not recycled, it is sourced from 'well-managed forests'. The hand towels, which are currently 'virgin pulp' are being switched to a 100 per cent. recycled product once current supplies are exhausted

Brand	*Supplier*	*Paper type*	*Size*	*Weight*	*Recycled content*
Evolve	Eximedia	Copier paper	A4	80gsm	100 per cent.
Steinbeis	Banner	Copier paper	A3	80gsm	100 per cent.
Xerox Symphony	Banner	Copier paper—green	A4	80gsm	Virgin
Letterheaded paper	Eximedia	Ministerial paper	A4	100gsm	Virgin
Viking	Viking	White Card	A4	160gsm	Virgin

Brand	*Supplier*	*Paper type*	*Size*	*Weight*	*Recycled content*
Luxury whisper	Mayflower	Toilet tissue	—	—	100 per cent.
Tork premium	Mayflower	Hand towels	—	—	Virgin
Katrin classic	Mayflower	Kitchen roll	—	—	100 per cent.

National Fraud Authority (NFA)

The NFA is committed to using suppliers that are contracted via the Office of Government Commerce Buying Solutions Framework to ensure value for money; procuring paper products that are sustainably sourced where possible. In 2008-09 all paper products used by NFA were sourced from sustainable forests and are 100 0 per cent. recyclable. Current brands used are as follows:

Type	*Supplier*	*Brand*	*Specification*
Copier paper	Lyreco UK Ltd.	Navigator Universal	A4 and A3 80gsm White
Printing paper	Lyreco UK Ltd.	Navigator Universal	A4 and A3 80gsm White
	Banner Business Supplies	Xerox	A4 Symphony Tint 80gsm Green

No orders were placed for paper packaging, craft materials or hygiene products

between August 2008 and March 2009.

Serious Fraud Office

SFO policy on the procurement of paper and paper products is (wherever possible) to meet the "Buy Sustainable—Quick Wins" best practice specifications issued by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Suppliers used are 'Talk paper' and 'KH packaging'. The brands are as follows:

Paper brand

Evolve Office

Evolve Office 2 Hole

Drilled

Data Copy Colour

Data Colour

Data Colour Every day

Crown Prosecution Service

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has a national framework contract with Office Depot for the supply of general stationery items and photocopying paper. CPS Sustainable Procurement Policy mandates that relevant products are purchased in accordance with the Office of Government Commerce's list of quick wins.

The CPS does not keep central records of the brands of paper products purchased and to obtain these details would involve manually checking paper records throughout the organisation and would incur disproportionate cost.

According to records supplied by Office Depot brands of paper purchased during 2008-09 include Niceday, Epson, Evolve, Hewlett Packard, Xerox, Datacopy, Steinbeis and Conqueror.

The CPS is a devolved organisation and it is possible that additional paper products outside of the Office Depot contract have been purchased. To obtain details of these including the brands of items would incur disproportionate cost.

Prior to the merger of the two departments in 2009-10 Revenue and Customs Prosecutions' Office (RCPO) obtained all its paper supplies, other than the fine quality bond paper, from Premier Beswick Paper mills, who are a recommended supplier from OGC. All the paper provided by Premier Beswick is 100 per cent. recycled.

Treasury Solicitor's Department

The Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol) utilises *(a)* Banner Office Supplies and Exi Serve Ltd. and *(b)* paper products as follows:

	Size
Stationery items—supplier and brand both Banner Office Supplies	
A-Z index books	A4/A5
Memo pads	A4/A5
Shorthand notebooks	A5
Plain pads	A5/A6
Post-it notes	Small/medium/large
Blue inserts/spines/corners	
Photocopying paper (part recycled fibres)	A4
Photocopying paper (part recycled fibres)	A3
Envelopes—supplier and brand both Banner Office Supplies	
A5 White Window	229x162
A5 Plain	229x162
A4 Window	
A4 Plain	
Plain	254x178
Plain	381x254
Window	110x220
Plain	110x220
Plain	406x305
Transit envelopes	Medium/large
Stationery products—supplier Exi Serve Ltd. Brand Q-Connect	
Business storage boxes/archive boxes	
Counsel note books	

The Treasury Solicitor's Departments policy is to procure, where possible, all items of paper products from Banner Office Supplies under a framework agreement negotiated by HM Revenue and Customs and to ensure that items are procured in the most cost-efficient and environmentally manner possible.

HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate

HMCPSI have adopted sustainable procurement and are working with TSol towards adopting their e-procurement policy and framework. Wherever possible, HMCPSI are committed to meet the "Buy Sustainable—Quick Wins" best practice specifications issued by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

The following table shows the *(a)* suppliers *(b)* brands of (i) paper and (ii) paper products bought during the financial year 2008-09.

(a) Supplier	*(b) Brands*	*(i) Paper*	*(ii) Paper products*
Lyreco UK Ltd.	Evolve which is 100 per cent. recycled content	Copier/office paper	

(a) Supplier	*(b) Brands*	*(i) Paper*	*(ii) Paper products*
Paperback Ltd.	Croxley Heritage which is 80 per cent. recycled content	Letterhead	—
Paperback Ltd.	Evercolour which is 100 per cent. recycled content	Coloured paper	—
Xerox (MOJ) supplier	Usually Xerox own brand paper. No definite figure for recycled content but meets government standard	Report Printing	—
Pioneer Quality Services and their sub-contractors	No information supplied by contractor	—	Toilet paper and hand towels
Lyreco UK Ltd.	Impega and Tyrek—company brands. They are endorsed by the Forest Stewardship Council and are sourced from sustainable forests and are 100 per cent. recyclable	—	Envelopes

Hotels

Mr. Maude: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer to hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood of 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 861W, on hotels, at which hotels graded five star or above bookings were made; for what *(a)* dates and *(b)* purposes the bookings were made; and whether the bookings were made on behalf of (i) Ministers and (ii) civil servants. [320911]

The Solicitor-General: The following five star hotels were booked for civil servants carrying out official duties. SFO policy is that hotel expenditure should meet the SFO hotel booking policy which compares favourably with wider Government service policies. Hotels with five star ratings have only been selected in exceptional circumstances where other lower ratings were not available or suitable. The geographical location of the hotels has not been specified because all the bookings related to investigations conducted by the Serious Fraud Office into possible criminal activity.

Hotel name	*Arrival*
Hilton	25 May 2009
Hilton	25 May 2009
Inter-Continental hotel	26 Aug 2009
Radisson	20 May 2009
Radisson	15 Sep 2009
Radisson	02 Mar 2009
Radisson	02 Mar 2009
Radisson	03 Aug 2009
Radisson	22 Apr 2009
Radisson	22 Apr 2009
Radisson	22 Apr 2009
Other unnamed hotel	05 Jul 2009

Royal Family

Norman Baker: To ask the Solicitor-General which members of the Royal Family are entitled to the assistance of the Attorney-General in her capacity as legal adviser. [319371]

The Solicitor-General: The only member of the Royal Family whom the Attorney-General, as Her Majesty's Attorney-General, is on occasion called upon to advise is the Queen.

Royal Family: Wills

Norman Baker: To ask the Solicitor-General (1) who initiated the discussions between the Palace, Farrers, the Attorney-General's Secretariat, the Attorney-General, a Senior District Judge, and President of the Family Division on the practice of the sealing of royal wills, leading to the creation of a document considering the practices for the closure of royal wills which was created in discussions before and after the death of the late Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret Countess of Snowdon, but prior to the issue of any proceedings; [319368]

(2) if she will publish the record of the discussions between the Palace, Farrers, the Attorney-General's Secretariat, the Attorney-General, a Senior District Judge, and President of the Family Division on the practice of sealing of royal wills before and after the death of the late Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret Countess of Snowdon, but prior to the issue of any proceedings to the sealing of royal wills. [319369]

The Solicitor-General: There have from time to time for many years been discussions between interested parties about the practice of the sealing of royal wills. It is not usual practice to comment on discussions undertaken in confidence with the Royal Household or their legal representatives.

Norman Baker: To ask the Solicitor-General whether the Attorney-General attended a court hearing to determine whether the will of *(a)* Her Majesty the Queen Mother and *(b)* Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon should be sealed. [319370]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General did attend court hearings to determine whether the wills of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret should be sealed.

HEALTH

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid in reimbursable expenses to special advisers in his Department in each of the last five years. [320477]

Phil Hope: The Department paid the following amounts, as reimbursable expenses, over the past five financial years:

	£
2009-10 (to date)	476.69
2008-09	738.62
2007-08	1,156.28
2006-07	501.49
2005-06	1,081.34

Grimsby

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Great Grimsby constituency, the effects of his Department's policies on that constituency since 1997. [320181]

Ann Keen: The Government have put in place a programme of national health service investment and reform since 1997 to improve service delivery in all parts of the United Kingdom. 93 per cent. of people nationally now rate the NHS as good or excellent. The NHS Constitution contains 25 rights and 14 pledges for patients and the public including new rights to be treated within 18 weeks, or be seen by a cancer specialist within two weeks and an NHS health check every five years for those aged 40 to 74 years.

There is significant evidence that these policies have yielded considerable benefits for the Great Grimsby constituency. For example:

Figures for December 2009 show that in the North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus:

99 per cent. of patients whose treatment involved admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

99 per cent. of patients whose treatment did not involve admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

In December 2009, at the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, 98.5 per cent. of patients spent less than four hours in accident and emergency from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge.

Between September 2002 and September 2008, the number of consultants at the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has increased from 120 to 141. Between September 2002 and September 2008 the estimated number of nurses has increased from 1,646 to 1,826.

Between September 2001 and September 2008 the number of general practitioners (GPs) per 100,000 within the North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus has increased from 55.9 to 62.6.

96.3 per cent. of urgent GP referrals to the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust with suspected cancer are seen by a specialist within two weeks of the referral (as at December 2009).

In July 2009, a new GP-led health centre opened in Grimsby town centre. The health centre is open from 8 am until 8 pm, seven days a week, 365 days a year, and offers bookable appointments and walk-in services for any member of the public.

There is one publicly funded scheme in the area that serves this constituency: a £12 million women and children's unit at the Diana Princess of Wales Hospital, which opened in February 2004.

Although statistical information is not available at a local level, Great Grimsby will have also benefitted from national policies in other areas. For example:

Since 1997, gross current expenditure on personal social services has increased by around 70 per cent. in real terms with around 105,000 households now receiving intensive home care and 3,076 new extra care housing units—exceeding the original target of 1,500 new extra care units.

Other strategies currently being implemented are:

Subject to parliamentary approval, the Personal Care at Home Bill will guarantee free personal care for 280,000 people with the highest needs and help around 130,000 people who need home care for the first time to regain their independence.

'Shaping the Future of Care Together' Green Paper, published in July 2009, sets out a vision of a National Care Service for all adults in England which is fair, simple and affordable. The Department has consulted widely on this reform and is currently analysing the responses, which will feed into a White Paper later this year.

The National Carer's Strategy ('Carers at the heart of 21st century families and Communities'), launched in 2008.

The first National Dementia Strategy was published in February 2009.

'Valuing People Now', a three year strategy for people with learning disabilities published in January 2009.

'New Horizons: A Shared Vision for Mental Health', launched in December 2009, to maintain improvements in mental health services combined with a new cross-Government approach to promoting public mental health.

Since 1998, there are now 2.4 million fewer smokers in England as a result of the Government's comprehensive tobacco control strategy which has a measurable impact on reducing smoking prevalence.

Child obesity levels are reducing due to the efforts of families across England, supported by the Government's obesity strategy. In 2008, 13.9 per cent. of children (aged two to 10) in England were classified as obese, compared with 17.3 per cent. in 2005.

Overall, life expectancy at birth for men has increased from 74.5 years (1995-97 data) to 77.7 years (2006-08 data) while for women, life expectancy at birth has increased from 79.6 years (1995-97 data) to 81.9 years (2006-08 data).

Health Services: Isle of Man

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether Flybe has been consulted on the implications for carriers of the discontinuance of the reciprocal health agreement between the UK and the Isle of Man; and if he will make a statement. [318456]

Gillian Merron: The Department took the decision to end the reciprocal healthcare agreement between the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man, as it no longer represents value for money to the UK taxpayer. Neither Flybe, nor other carriers, were consulted as part of that process. However, the Department will be targeting the tourist industry as part of a campaign to raise awareness that the agreement with the Isle of Man will be ending.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff his Department and its agencies have appointed who were later discovered to be illegal immigrants since 2005. [320445]

Phil Hope: No illegal immigrants have been found to be working within the Department or its agencies in the last five years.

Mobile Phones: Children

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to increase awareness of its advice on the use of mobile telephones by children and young people under the age of 16; and if he will make a statement. [320171]

Gillian Merron: The Department's leaflet, "mobile phones and health", including advice concerning children's use of mobile phones, is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4123979

The Department keeps this leaflet under review to ensure the presentation is fresh and effective. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Advice on using mobile phones is also available on the NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/mobile-phone-safety/pages/risks.aspx

The Health Protection Agency's Radiation Protection Division advises the Government on science matters concerning electromagnetic fields and has recently reviewed its website advice on mobile phones at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1195733769169

NHS: Finance

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contacts the NHS has had with the National Bullying Helpline; and whether the NHS has made any payments to *(a)* the National Bullying Helpline and *(b)* HR and Diversity Management Limited since 2004. [320132]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally. Any data on payments to the above bodies would be held at local trust level. One of the measurement criteria in the NHS staff survey is

> "Percentage of staff experiencing bullying & harassment from staff (manager, team leader or other colleague) in the previous 12 months".

The next staff survey results are due on 17 March 2010.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Flood Control

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many dams, reservoirs and lakes in England have a system of releasing water to provide storage for excess rain; and if he will make a statement. [320166]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency keeps a public register of the 2,102 (1,899 in England) large raised reservoirs which are capable of holding 25,000m^3 or more of water above natural ground level. The Environment Agency is the enforcement authority for the Reservoirs Act 1975 in England and Wales.

The register does not contain details of the systems for releasing water from the reservoirs. However, most reservoirs do have such systems for operation and maintenance purposes.

The Environment Agency is the operator for 182 flood storage reservoirs in England. The purpose of these reservoirs is to provide storage for excess rain.

Horses: Anaemia

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases of equine infectious anaemia were reported in the UK in each of the last five years. [320968]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There have been two cases of equine infectious anaemia reported in the UK in the last five years. The first was in Northern Ireland in September 2006, the second was in England in January 2010.

Livestock: Exports

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* unweaned calves, *(b)* cattle, *(c)* sheep and *(d)* other livestock species were exported for (i) further fattening and (ii) slaughter in 2009. [319974]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Statistics on numbers of animals consigned for export from Great Britain are not routinely collated (although numbers of export consignments are). Nor are statistics collated on whether consignments are for breeding, further fattening or slaughter, or numbers of weaned or unweaned calves.

Information for trade within the European Union is currently being sought through the European Commission. However, the system used to access this has been unavailable since 22 February although the Commission has been contacted and is expected to provide this information shortly. The information for non-EU trade can be gathered by scrutinising the export certificates for each of the 49 consignments in 2009, though this could not be achieved within the timescale required for this response but will be supplied subsequently.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [320541]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has not provided or funded, coaching in a foreign language to Ministers or civil servants in the last 12 months.

Departmental Paper

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* brands of (i) paper and (ii) paper products his Department uses; and what his Department's policy is on the procurement of those materials. [320027]

Mr. Woodward: The majority of divisions within the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) use a central contract to procure copying paper. Suppliers on this contract are Antalis; Banner; Office Depot and Supplies Team.

Brand details of copying paper procured through this contract are:

Everyday Business recycled paper A4 80 gsm white;

Evolve Business recycled paper A4 80 gsm white;

Xerox recycled paper A4 80 gsm (various colours);

Banner minute sheets A4 and A5 sizes 70 gsm;

Steinbeis recycled paper A4 80 gsm white.

Separate arrangements are in place for our London Office, who source copying paper via locally based suppliers. The local supplier used is Xerox. The brand of paper procured is Xerox Supreme recycled paper A4 80 gsm white.

All brands of copying paper procured by the Department are 100 per cent. recycled.

There are local arrangements in place in each NIO location with landlords providing paper based products such as kitchen and toilet rolls. There is no central list of the suppliers or brand names of these products.

Departmental policy is to procure recycled copying paper and paper products in line with the Quick Wins targets set by the Government.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff his Department and its agencies have appointed who were later discovered to be illegal immigrants since 2005. [320448]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has not appointed any staff since 2005 who were later discovered to be illegal immigrants.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

UK Innovation Investment Fund

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the first funding to be disbursed from the UK innovation investment fund. [320208]

Mr. McFadden: The UK Innovation Investment Fund brings together public and private sector finance to back the best of British Innovation. The fund has appointed two managers, Hermes Private Equity and the European Investment Fund. There is a total pool of capital of £325 million. £200 million will be invested through the EIF's UK Future Technologies Fund in areas such as ICT, life sciences and advanced manufacturing. £125 million through the Hermes Environmental Innovation Fund will specialise in cleantech and low carbon. We expect these two funds to begin investing over the next few months.

Science and Knowledge Transfer

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of his Department's policies on science and knowledge transfer. [320211]

Mr. Lammy: Independent studies have shown that excellent research improves the performance of existing business, creates new business, delivers highly skilled people to the labour market and attracts research and development investment from global business.

UKTI used the strength of the research base to attract 450 R and D investments to the UK between 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Business Funding

Mr. Bain: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses have received funding directly from his Department since 2008. [320214]

Mr. McFadden: During the economic downturn, the Government have supported thousands of businesses of all sizes by way of a number of programmes through a combination of grants, guarantees, investments and loans. Through the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, over 8,000 businesses have been offered loans totalling over £850 million. Through the Regional Transition Loan Fund, over £40 million of loans have been agreed. And 160,000 businesses have been able to spread £5 billion in business taxes through allowing businesses more time to pay their tax bill.

Statutory Redundancy Pay

Natascha Engel: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to equalise eligibility for statutory redundancy pay for those aged under 22 and 22 or older. [320215]

Ian Lucas: The Government believe that the age bands in the statutory redundancy scheme are objectively justified. The lower band is designed to encourage employers to recruit and retain younger workers.

Aerospace Industry: Skills

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the skills requirement of the aerospace industry. [320216]

Kevin Brennan: We are working closely with aerospace businesses to understand their requirements, and with organisations like the Sector Skills Council for Science Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies and the Aerospace Defence Security Industries trade association, who are helping businesses plan their individual skills needs through a Strategic Workforce Planning tool. Building on this, the Aerospace Defence Security Industries trade association is developing a Roadmap to provide a clearer signal of the sector's skills needs.

Biotechnology and Biological Science Research Council

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what projects will be funded as part of the Biotechnology and Biological Science Research Council initiatives on animal disease. [319841]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 3 March 2010]:* BBSRC has recently announced 16 projects that will be funded through the 'Combating infectious diseases of livestock for international development' initiative. BBSRC is also currently funding projects through other initiatives on endemic diseases, avian influenza, blue tongue virus and swine flu. Details are on the web at

http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Publications/100215-cidlid-brochure.pdf

BBSRC is also involved in an initiative led by DEFRA on Emerging and major infectious diseases of livestock. The projects to be supported under this initiative have yet to be assessed.

In addition to these initiatives BBSRC has also supported research projects on animal disease through core funding to the Institute for Animal Health (IAH), which in 2008-09 totalled £9.5 million with a further £19.6 million of capital funding related to research on animal disease in 2008-09.

In 2008-09, BBSRC total spend on animal disease research was around £31 million.

Copyright

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to protect copyright privileges. [320580]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 4 March 2010]:* Copyright is a private property right. In the vast majority of cases of copyright infringement, the law provides this is a civil wrong. As such it is not for Government to intervene in the enforcement of a private right. The Government are however aware of the need to ensure that the copyright framework is fit for purpose, such that copyright owners are able to take action to enforce their own rights if appropriate. Our proposals in the Digital Economy Bill will improve the options available to copyright owners in the case of online infringement of their rights. Our strategy published last October, 'Copyright—the way ahead: A Strategy for Copyright in the Digital Age', takes a broader view at changes that may be necessary to keep pace with developments. It can be found at:

http://www.ipo.gov.uk/c-strategy-digitalage.pdf

The Government also believe there must be an appropriate and proportionate legal framework in place to tackle criminal infringement of copyright. As part of this framework, the Digital Economy Bill will introduce increased financial penalties for online and physical copyright infringement.

Graduates: Government Assistance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people have attended each Make it Happen *(a)* day and *(b)* roadshow event. [319915]

Mr. Lammy: The total number of people who attended a Flying Start - Make it Happen day between 27 October and 10 December is 1,066. Since January 2010 the Make it Happen day events have been combined with the self-employment and business start-up programmes, and between 19 January 2010 and 25 February 2010, 544 people have attended such combined events.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from each higher education institution have registered with the Flying Start—Make it Happen campaign. [319916]

Mr. Lammy: The Make it Happen programme is aimed primarily at unemployed graduates; however, students—especially final year students—are not discouraged from attending a Make it Happen event.

The following table shows the numbers of graduates and students to have registered with Make it Happen since its launch in September 2009, broken down by University, and whether a student or graduate, where this is known.

University	*Number of graduates*	*Number of students*
Aberystwyth, University of Wales	9	3
Anglia Ruskin University	5	1
Architectural Association School of Architecture	1	—
Aston University	34	10
Bangor, University of Wales	7	3
Bath Spa University	12	3
Bedfordshire (University of Luton), University of Bedfordshire	20	2
Bell College	1	—
Birkbeck, University of London	8	2
Birmingham City University	32	8
Bournemouth University	94	16
Brunei University	37	15
Buckinghamshire (Bucks) New University	11	2
Business Link	6	—
Business Support Organisation	1	1
Canterbury Christ Church University	7	39
Cardiff University	18	—
Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London	1	—
City University, London	18	13
College of St. Mark and St. John	1	1
Coventry University	32	37
Cranfield University	8	3
Dartington College of Arts	2	2
De Montfort University (Leicester)	22	1
Edge Hill University	7	1
Edinburgh College of Art	2	—
Falmouth, University College	12	12
Glasgow Caledonian University	2	—
Glasgow School of Art	—	1
Goldsmiths College, University of London	19	3
Grimsby Institute of Higher and Further Education	2	—
Harper Adams University College—Shropshire	2	1
Henley Management College	1	1
Heriot Watt University	4	—
Imperial College London	23	13
Keele University	5	—
Kent Institute of Art and Design	2	—
King's College, University of London	76	16
Kingston University	59	86
Lampeter, University of Wales	3	—
Lancaster University	26	9

University	*Number of graduates*	*Number of students*
Leeds Metropolitan University	66	37
Liverpool Hope University	13	22
Liverpool John Moores University	45	3
London Business School, University of London	3	1
London Metropolitan University	67	18
London School of Economics and Political Science	10	9
London South Bank University	27	8
Loughborough University	26	2
Manchester Metropolitan University	99	24
Middlesex University	37	12
Newman College of Higher Education	—	1
Napier University	1	—
Newcastle University	14	—
Newport, University of Wales	8	—
North East Wales Institute	2	—
Norwich School of Art and Design	1	—
Nottingham Trent University	23	4
Open University London	31	11
Other HE/FE Institution	49	15
Overseas University	20	—
Oxford Brookes University	36	90
Queen Margaret University College	1	1
Queen Mary, University of London	35	6
Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication	1	—
Robert Gordon University	7	1
Roehampton University	15	5
Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester	1	—
Royal College of Art	1	—
Royal Holloway, University of London	4	7
Royal Veterinary College, University of London	2	—
Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama	1	—
School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London	6	2
School of Pharmacy, University of London	1	—
Sheffield Hallam University	69	52
Southampton Solent University	15	5
St. George's, University of London	1	3
Staffordshire University	18	—
Surrey Institute of Art and Design, University College	7	1
Swansea Institute of Higher Education	3	—
Swansea University	6	—
Thames Valley University	28	5
The Arts Institute at Bournemouth	6	3
The Open University	4	4
Trinity and All Saints College (Leeds)	5	
University College Birmingham	4	2
University College for the Creative Arts	27	6
University College London, University of London	43	15
University of Aberdeen	2	1
University of Bath	13	1
University of Birmingham	36	12
University of Bolton	64	22
University of Bradford	31	5
University of Brighton	34	42
University of Bristol	11	9
University of Buckingham	1	
University of Central England		1
University of Cambridge	17	
University of Central Lancashire	35	7
University of Chester	5	1
University of Chichester	5	
University of Cumbria	9	
University of Derby	19	28
University of Durham	16	
University of East Anglia	4	
University of East London	29	7
University of Edinburgh	4	
University of Essex	12	2
University of Exeter	14	6
University of Exeter (Cornwall)		1
University of Glamorgan	10	2
University of Glasgow	7	
University of Gloucestershire	6	7
University of Greenwich	62	17
University of Hertfordshire	40	52
University of Huddersfield	24	4
University of Hull	46	4
University of Kent	35	14
University of Leeds	50	38
University of Leicester	15	4
University of Lincoln	80	36
University of Liverpool	37	20
University of London	10	3
University of Manchester	69	58
University of Northampton	9	
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	8	2
University of Nottingham	31	17
University of Oxford	21	3
University of Plymouth	36	18
University of Portsmouth	40	18
University of Reading	17	16
University of Salford	44	18
University of Sheffield	42	12
University of Southampton	12	4
University of St. Andrews	3	1
University of Stirling	1	
University of Strathclyde	3	1
University of Sunderland	7	
University of Surrey—Guildford	12	71
University of Sussex	13	8
University of Teesside	4	2
University of the Arts—Chelsea College of Arts and Design	—	1
University of the Arts—Camberwell College of the Arts	4	
University of the Arts—Central St. Martins	10	
University of the Arts—London College of Fashion	6	
University of the Arts—London School of Communications	12	5
University of the Arts London	10	2
University of the Arts of London	1	1
University of the West of England	60	9
University of Ulster	1	
University of Wales Institute, Cardiff	12	2
University of Warwick	22	8

University	*Number of graduates*	*Number of students*
University of Westminster	34	20
University of Wolverhampton	49	37
University of York	26	23
Worcester, University College	3	2
York St. John University	11	1
Registrations where home university and graduate or student status is unknown	2,539	

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many unique visitors there were to the FlyingStart—Make it Happen website in each month since it was launched. [319917]

Mr. Lammy: The total number of unique visitors to the Flying Start—Make it Happen website since it was launched on 24 September 2009 is 23,863. The figures by month are:

	Number
2009	
September	3,376
October	7,551
November	6,481
December	2,212
2010	
January	2,912
February	1,330

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been spent on *(a)* roadshow Make it Happen events, *(b)* creating and maintaining the Make it Happen website and *(c)* other activities involved in the FlyingStart - Make it Happen campaign. [319918]

Mr. Lammy: The total spend to date on the Flying Start—Make it Happen programme is £350,000. This is broken down as follows:

£68,000 for the Make it Happen days and programmes;

£69,000 for the creation and maintenance of the Make it Happen Website; and

£213,000 for other activities.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people have began a Make it Happen self-employment and business start-up programme. [319920]

Mr. Lammy: 1,570 people have begun a Flying Start—Make it Happen self-employment/business start-up programme.

Innovation: Finance

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what programmes and initiatives received funding from the other innovation programmes budget referred to in Table 11 of his Department's Departmental Report for 2009; and how much such funding was allocated to each such programme and initiative in the latest year for which figures are available. [318920]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 3 March 2010]:* The following received funding in 2008/09 from the "other innovation programmes" budget, referred to in Table 11 of the 2009 Departmental Report:

	£ million
Expenditure on National Measurement System Programmes	62
Depreciation and capital costs associated with the National Weights and Measurements laboratory site	12
Capital Expenditure on National Weights and Measurements laboratory site	12
British Standards Institute and UK Accreditation Service programmes	6
DIUS/Technology Strategy Board collaborative activities	3
Dividend received from Intellectual Property Office	-7
Intellectual Property Office cost of capital	3
Total	91

Music

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to assist the music industry, with particular reference to intellectual property rights relating to that industry. [320604]

Mr. Lammy: This Department conducted a review of copyright last year. The resulting strategy: 'Copyright—the way ahead: A Strategy for Copyright in the Digital Age' was published in October 2009. It can be found at:

http://www.ipo.gov.uk/c-strategy-digitalage.pdf

This covered copyright issues relating to a range of creative industries, including the music industry, and made a number of commitments which we are working to deliver. These include measures in the Digital Economy Bill to combat online infringement of copyright.

The music industry is of course an integral part of the creative economy, for which the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has responsibility. DCMS works closely with the music industry on a wide range of issues and, among other things, is setting up a number of community music rehearsal spaces around England in order to encourage and develop grass-roots talent. 'Creative Britain—New Talents for the New Economy', published in February 2008, and 'Digital Britain', published in June 2009, set the strategic direction for the Government's work to support the creative and digital sectors respectively and a programme of work in these areas is ongoing.

Photographs: Copyright

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on mandatory attribution of photographs to the photographer. [320581]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 4 March 2010]:* I have recently received a number of representations from photographers about Clause 42 of the Digital Economy

Bill which covers the treatment of Orphan Works and Extended Licensing. Some of these have also referred to the question of attribution.

UK law provides certain "moral rights", including that photographers and creators of other works may assert their right to be identified as the author when their work is used for certain purposes. There are, however, a number of exceptions including where a work is intended for use in a newspaper, magazine or similar periodical. I am aware that some photographers would like to see the law changed to require attribution in all cases.

As my Noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Postal Affairs and Employment Relations explained in the debates on the Digital Economy Bill, the Government have noted the concerns of creators (including photographers) and will be keeping the issue under review. The Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property is already looking at the broader issue of moral rights.

Royal Mail

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of Royal Mail sorting centres. [320740]

Mr. McFadden: I have asked Adam Crozier, chief executive of Royal Mail, to respond directly to the hon. Member as Royal Mail management has responsibility for the company's operations. A copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mail volumes continue to decline, by 8 per cent. in the first half of the financial year (April to Sept 2009), due to increased use of digital methods of communication. It is vitally important that Royal Mail can structure its operations as efficiently as possible so that it can compete in a competitive communications market while continuing to maintain the universal postal service at affordable prices. Royal Mail and the CWU are currently discussing a wide ranging agreement covering modernisation of the postal network.

Students: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many borrowers had a Student Loan Company debt cancelled or written off in each of the last five years; and in how many such cases action was taken because of *(a)* bankruptcy and *(b)* completion of an individual voluntary arrangement. [319902]

Mr. Lammy: The available information is shown in the table. Figures reflect the year in which the processing of the write-off took place and not necessarily the year in which the circumstances surrounding the write-off occurred.

Student loan borrowers with accounts cancelled or written-off[1] England

Financial year	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[4]
Cancelled or written-off[2]	800	1,600	3,300	4,600	6,300
of which					
because of bankruptcy[3]	—	—	—	500	900
on completion of IVA[3]	—	—	—	100	100

— = nil or negligible

[1] The table shows the financial year in which the cancellation or write-off action was processed. The total includes both Mortgage Style and Income Contingent Repayment (ICR) borrowers.

[2] The functionality for processing cancellation of IC loans due to death and disability was put in place in 2008-09. Some write-offs due to death or disability were processed manually in earlier years, but a number of such write-offs dating back to previous years were processed in 2008-09 and are included in this figure.

[3] The functionality for processing write-offs due to bankruptcy and on completion of an IVA was put in place in 2007-08. Some write-offs due to bankruptcy or IVAs were processed manually in earlier years, but a number of such write-offs dating back to previous financial years were processed in 2007-08 and 2008-09 and are included in figures for those years.

[4] Provisional

Source:

Student Loans Company

The number of student loan borrowers has increased each year since loans were introduced in 1990, and it is therefore expected that the number of loans cancelled or written-off will increase annually.

Student loans have been exempt from bankruptcy arrangements since 2004, therefore the figures provided for write-offs due to bankruptcy in 2007-08 and 2008-09 all relate to bankruptcy in earlier years. The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 contains the provision to exclude student loans from Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs).

Technology Strategy Board

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* projects and *(b)* companies have received funding from the Technology Strategy Board in each month since its creation; and how much funding was provided for each. [307911]

Mr. Lammy: Since it was established in July 2007 the Technology Strategy Board has provided grant funding to companies and collaborative R and D projects, and to knowledge transfer partnership projects.

A copy of the tables will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what definition of corruption his Department uses in respect of Afghanistan; and what steps he is taking to ensure that officials of his Department based in that country are trained to recognise and report any such corruption. [319019]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have been asked to reply.

Both the UK and Afghan Governments are party to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) which defines corruption as:

(a) the promise, offering or giving to a public official, directly or indirectly, of an undue advantage, for the official himself or herself or another person or entity, in

order that the official act or refrain from acting in the exercise of his or her official duties;

(b) the solicitation or acceptance by a public official, directly or indirectly, of an undue advantage, for the official himself or herself or another person or entity, in order that the official act or refrain from acting in the exercise of his or her official duties.

HMG officials based in Kabul and Lashkar Gah include Governance and Rule of Law advisers, who are able to identify and advise on how to tackle corruption. The UK government also provides annual guidance to all embassies and overseas offices on reporting suspected corruption.

Arms Control

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on negotiations on the content of the proposed UN Arms Trade Treaty; when he expects negotiations to be completed and a text to be laid before the House; what discussions his Department has had with Shorts Bombardier on the effects of such a treaty on *(a)* that company and *(b)* the defence industry; and what steps will be taken to consult representations of the defence industry if a draft Treaty is agreed by the UN. [320941]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have made very good progress in securing overwhelming global support to start formal negotiations on an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in the UN in July this year. These negotiations will continue through 2011 and culminate in a UN Conference in 2012. We would hope to lay a text before the House following this.

We maintain a regular dialogue with a large number of states in support of the UN ATT process, and with a wide range of UK stakeholders. We have not had discussions with Shorts Bombardier, but we are pleased to be working closely with the UK defence industry trade associations to ensure there is no unintended impact on the legitimate trade in arms.

British Indian Ocean Territory: Environment Protection

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 211W, on the British Indian Ocean Territory: environment protection, what proposals were made by each of the bodies represented at the meeting on *(a)* 14 January and *(b)* 21 July, 2009; what response the Government made to each of those proposals; and what his policy is on relations between the UK and Mauritius. [320128]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: During the 14 January meeting the delegations discussed the latest legal and policy developments relating to the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)/Chagos Archipelago. Both delegations set out their respective positions on sovereignty and the UK also set out how the UK needed to bear in mind its treaty obligations with the US and our ongoing need of the British Indian Ocean Territory for defence purposes. There was mutual discussion of fishing rights, environmental concerns, the continental shelf and future visits to the Territory by Chagossians.

During the 21 July meeting both delegations reiterated their respective positions on sovereignty and resettlement as expressed at the first round of talks held in London on 14 January. The delegations agreed on the desirability of a co-ordinated submission to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for an extended continental shelf in the Chagos Archipelago/BIOT region. A joint technical team would be set up with officials from both sides to look into the possibilities of a co-ordinated response. The UK delegation proposed that consideration be given to the possible creation of a Marine Protected Area (MPA), which the Mauritians agreed in principle. The UK delegation agreed to examine the Mauritian proposal to set up a mechanism to look into the joint issuing of fishing licences for BIOT waters, and stated that such examination would also include consideration of the implications of the proposed MPA.

UK relations with Mauritius are broad and deep, with regular contacts at all levels. The UK is Mauritius' largest trade partner and second largest tourism market. The UK and Mauritius have many shared international priorities and, subject to regional voting constraints, the UK and Mauritian Governments frequently take the same positions in international fora. Within regional blocs, such as the African Union (AU) and Southern African Development Community (SADC), Mauritius is often a voice supporting UK aims. The Government also supports, through the EU, structural adjustment of the Mauritian economy to cope with the loss of sugar preferences. The UK will continue to develop this relationship—later in the year, we will be marking the 200th Anniversary of UK involvement in Mauritius. More immediately, the Privy Council will hold their second sitting in Mauritius this April.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter of 3 February 2010 from the hon. Member for Walsall North on a constituent. [320742]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office transferred the hon. Member for Walsall North's letter of 3 February to the Department for International Development (DfID) for reply. I understand that DfID replied on 3 March.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a specific assessment of the extent of damage caused by Israeli armed forces to projects in Gaza which have been *(a)* constructed and *(b)* financed with UK assistance since the Oslo Peace Accords. [320972]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK Government have no plans to make such an assessment. Given current circumstances in Gaza, it would not be possible to gather the necessary data.

Nuclear Weapons: Proliferation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 419, on nuclear weapons, what resources have been spent on solutions to *(a)* technical, *(b)* political and *(c)* institutional challenges to prevent (i) vertical and (ii) horizontal proliferation in each year since 1997; and what resources have been committed since to promoting abroad (A) the expansion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and (B) nuclear disarmament since July 2009. [320535]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has undertaken extensive activity across these eight areas in collaboration with its global network of posts and other Government Departments, principally the Ministry of Defence, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (previously the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform) and the Agencies. The information requested is not immediately available and compilation could be attempted only at disproportionate cost.

Rwanda: Politics and Government

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on *(a)* attacks on Rwandan presidential candidate Victoire Umuhoza, *(b)* progress made toward the registration of opposition parties and *(c)* the extent of political freedom in Rwanda in the run-up to the 2010 presidential election; and if he will make a statement. [319692]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 1 March 2010]*: Our high commission in Kigali is in regular contact with the full spectrum of political opinion in Rwanda, including Mme Victoire Ingabire Umuhoza. We are aware of reports stating that Mme Ingabire was involved in an altercation on 3 February when she attended a registration office in Kigali to obtain her identity card. The circumstances are disputed, but Mme Ingabire was not herself harmed, although her driver was attacked by unknown assailants.

We are aware of reports of opposition parties facing difficulties registering prior to the elections. In this context, we meet regularly with political parties, including Government and opposition parties. We continue to engage with the Government of Rwanda, both with Ministers and with the National Election Commission, on the issues of registration and functioning of political parties, as well as the wider matter of extending political space in Rwanda, particularly with regard to the elections in August this year.

We continue to support political and media freedom in Rwanda and we engage regularly, both bilaterally and with our EU partners, to ensure that the Rwandan Government respects these issues.

JUSTICE

Departmental Paper

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* brands of (i) paper and (ii) paper products his Department uses; and what his Department's policy is on the procurement of those materials. [320037]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice currently use Banner Business Supplies Limited for all office paper and paper products that fall under the office stationery category. During 2008/09 Banner was the sole provider for all the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) paper based products and Office Depot were the main provider for all Wider Ministry of Justice paper based products.

The wider Ministry of Justice did not collate this information centrally before 2009. However, a new procurement system has been established that will enable more data to be captured and maintained. Implementation is due to complete shortly with information being available in the second quarter of 2010.

The following table shows the brands, size, weight, recycled content and volume purchased for paper only and refer solely to NOMS. The Information requested for paper products are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Brand of Paper	*Product*	*Size*	*Weight*	*Recycled content (percentage)*	*Volume purchased (reams) 2008-09*
Supplier Own Brand	Paper	A3	80gsm	[1]—	10
Supplier Own Brand	Paper	A4	80gsm	[1]—	9,190
EP4	Paper	A3	80gsm	80	7,400
EP4	Paper	A4	80gsm	80	551,045
Evolve	Paper	A4	80gsm	100	812
Evolve	Paper	A4	100gsm	100	—
Steinbeis	Paper	A4	80gsm	100	540
Conqueror	Paper	A4	100gsm	n/a	—
Duplicating	Coloured Paper	A4	80gsm	n/a	3,198
Index Card	Index Card	A4	150gsm	n/a	134
Proprietary	Coloured Card	A4	200mu	[1]—	127
Xerox	Paper	A3	160gsm	[1]—	—
Xerox	Paper	A3	160gsm	[1]—	15
Xerox	Coloured Card	A4	120gsm	[1]—	165
Xerox	Paper	A4	160gsm	[1]—	2,205
Xerox	Coloured Card	A4	160gsm	[1]—	1,620
Xerox	Paper	A4	80gsm	[1]—	245
Xerox	Coloured Paper	A4	80gsm	[1]—	11,303
Xerox	Paper	A5	80gsm	[1]—	1,280

[1] Farmed from sustainable sources.

Prison industries provide a printing solution for the MoJ which also provides constructive employment for inmates. The information requested for recycled content is not held centrally and could be provided only as disproportionate cost.

Brand of paper	*Product*	*Item description*	*Size (A3/a4)*	*Recycled content (percentage)*	*Quantity*
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A3 80 gsm Yellow (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box)	A3	—	35
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper White SRA3 120 gsm Colotech+ Silk (250 Sheets per Pack - 6 Packs per box)	SRA3	—	128
Xerox	Paper	100g Colotech Mattor Silk SRA3 Paper 6 packs of 500 sheets = 3,000 sheets required	SRA3	—	6
Xerox	Paper	100gColotech Matt or Silk SRA3 Paper 2 packs of 500 sheets = 1,000 sheets required.	SRA3	—	2
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 80 gsm Dark Red (Box of 2500 Sheets)	A4	—	45
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 80 gsm Lilac (Box of 2,500 Sheets)	A4	—	7
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 80 gsm Pink (Box of 2,500 Sheets)	A4	—	18
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 80 gsm Yellow (Box of 2,500 Sheets)	A4	—	71
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 80 gsm Salmon (Box of 2,500 Sheets)	A4	—	5
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 80 gsm Orange (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box)	A4	—	121
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 160 gsm Blue (Box of 1,250 Sheets)	A4	—	15
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 160 gsm Pink (Box of 1,250 Sheets)	A4	—	3
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper White A3 80 gsm Recycled+ (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box)	A3	80	546
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper White A4 80 gsm Recycled+ (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box)	A4	80	5,290
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper White A4 80 gsm Recycled+ (Box of 2,500 Sheets)	A4	80	1,053
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper White A4 80 gsm Recycled Supreme (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box)	A4	80	525
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper White A3 80 gsm Recycled Supreme (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box)	A3	80	255
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper White A3 80 gsm Recycled + (Box of 2,500 Sheets)	A3	80	109
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper White A4 80 gsm Recycled Supreme (Box of 2,590 Sheets)	A4	80	30
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 160 gsm Yellow (Box of 1,250 Sheets)	A4	—	14
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 80 gsm Blue (Box of 2,500 Sheets)	A4	—	16
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 160 gsm Ivory (250 Sheets per Ream - 5 Packs per box)	A4	—	35
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 80 gsm Dark Yellow (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box)	A4	—	158
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A3 80 gsm Lilac (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box)	A3	—	55
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 160 gsm Orange (Box of 1,250 Sheets)	A4	—	5
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 80 gsm Mid Blue (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box)	A4	—	35

Brand of paper	*Product*	*Item description*	*Size (A3/a4)*	*Recycled content (percentage)*	*Quantity*
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 80 gsm Mid Grey (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box)	A4	—	5
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 80 gsm Gold (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box)	A4	—	21
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 160 gsm Green (Box of 1,250 Sheets)	A4	—	10
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 160 gsm Orange (250 Sheets per Ream - 5 Packs per box)	A4	—	5
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 160 gsm Gold (250 Sheets per Ream - 5 Packs per box)	A4	—	5
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 160 gsm Yellow (250 Sheets per Ream - 5 Packs per box)	A4	—	5
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 160 gsm Ivory (Box of 1,250 Sheets)	A4	—	5
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper White SRA3 220 gsm Colotech+ (Box of 750 Sheets)	SRA3	—	4
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 160 gsm Mid Grey (Box of 1,250 Sheets)	A4	—	1
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 160 gsm Dark Blue (Box of 1,250 Sheets)	A3	—	5
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A3 80 gsm Mid Grey (Box of 2,500 Sheets)	A3	—	2
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 160 gsm Dark Red (250 Sheets per Ream - 5 Packs per box)	A4	—	5
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A3 80 gsm Green (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box)	A3	—	107
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper White SRA3 280 gsm Colotech+Silk (125 Sheets per Pack – 5 Packs per box)	SRA3	—	5
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 80 gsm Dark Green (Box of 2,500 Sheets)	A4	—	5
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 80 gsm Mid Grey (Box of 2,500 Sheets)	A4	—	6
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 80 gsm Mid Green (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box)	A4	—	10
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A3 80 gsm Dark Yellow (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box)	A3	—	8
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper White SRA3 220 gsm Colotech+ (250 Sheets per Pack - 3 Packs per box)	SRA3	—	7
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 160 gsm Dark Yellow (Box of 1,250 Sheets)	A4	—	7
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 80 gsm Mid Pink (Box of 2,500 Sheets)	A4	—	2
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper White SRA3 120 gsm Colotech+ Silk (Box of 1,500 Sheets)	SRA3	—	25
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper White SRA3 250 gsm Colotech+ Silk (Box of 625 Sheets)	SRA3	—	1
Xerox	Paper	100gColotechMatt 8 packs of 500 sheets = 4,000 sheets required	SRA3	—	8
Xerox	Paper	100g ColotechSRA3 White Paper (500 sheets per ream) 3 reams per box .	SRA3	—	8
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper White SRA3 160 gsm Colotech+ (200 Sheets per Pack - 4 Packs per box)	SRA3	—	12
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 80 gsm Dark Blue (Box of 2,500 Sheets)	A4	—	4

Brand of paper	*Product*	*Item description*	*Size (A3/a4)*	*Recycled content (percentage)*	*Quantity*
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A3 80 gsm Buttercup (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box)	A3	—	30
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper White SRA3 160 gsm Colotech+ (Box of 800 Sheets)	SRA3		21
Xerox	Cartridge	Xerox Magenta cartridge -106R00654	Cartridge	—	1
Xerox	Label	Laser Labels 003R96169	Label	—	1
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper White SRA3 140 gsm Colotech+ Gloss (250 Sheets per Pack - 5 Packs per box)	SRA3	80	5
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 80 gsm Dark Green (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box)	A4	—	10
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 160 gsm Dark Green (Box of 1,250 Sheets)	A4	—	1
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 160 gsm Mid Grey (250 Sheets per Ream - 5 Packs per box)	A4	—	205
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper White SRA3 140 gsm Colotech+ Gloss (Box of 1,250 Sheets)	A4	—	13
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A3 80 gsm Pink (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box)	A3	—	55
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A3 80 gsm Salmon (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box)	A3	—	54
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A3 80 gsm Blue (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box)	A3	—	69
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A3 80 gsm Ivory (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box)	A3	—	168
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A3 80 gsm Mid Blue (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box	A3	—	23
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A3 80 gsm Mid Green (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box)	A3	—	33
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A3 80 gsm Mid Pink (500 Sheets per Ream - 5 Reams per box)	A3	—	48
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A3 80 gsm Pink (Box of 2,500 Sheets)	A3	—	12
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper White SRA3 280 gsm Colotech+ Silk (Box of 625 Sheets)	SRA3	—	6
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper White A3 80 gsm Recycled Supreme (Box of 2,500 Sheets)	A3	80	22
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper White SRA3 120 gsm Colotech+ Gloss (Box of 1,500 Sheets)	SRA3	—	12
Xerox	Label	boxes 003R91224 peel off labels 99.1 x 67.7 100 sheets per box (800 labels)	Label	—	120
Xerox	Paper	003R97608 A3 Colotech+ Silk white 280gsm	A3	—	6
Xerox	Paper	003R99077 Pink carbonless CF paper	A4	—	30
Xerox	Label	003R96289 68.1 x99.1 labels x 14 per sheet 100 sheets per box	Label	—	40
Xerox	Label	003R91224 white labels 8 per sheet 100 per box	Label	—	20
Xerox	Paper	003R97950A3x120grm Colotech	A3	—	32.
Xerox	Paper	003R97977 Colotec +250grm SRA3	SRA3	—	18
Xerox	Paper	003R97955 A3 Colotech+ white 100gsm	A3	—	40
Xerox	Paper	003R97956 SRA3 Colotech+ white 100gsm	A3	—	40
Xerox	Paper	reams 003R97955 A3 colotech+white 100gsm	A3	—	50
Xerox	Paper	003R97955 reams A3 colotech+ white 100 grms	A3	—	96
Xerox	Paper	003R97072 reams A3 colotech+ white 220 grms	A3	—	24
Xerox	Paper	003R98105 reams A3 Xerox recycled pure white paper	A3	—	200

Brand of paper	*Product*	*Item description*	*Size (A3/a4)*	*Recycled content (percentage)*	*Quantity*
Xerox	Paper	ream003R93217 Symphony A4 120grm Ivory	A4	—	20
Xerox	Paper	003R97608 A3 280grm Colotech Silk White	A3	—	30
Xerox	Paper	003R97972 A3 220grm Colotech+ White	A3	—	24
Xerox	Paper	003R97513SRA3 Polyolefin Durapaper 255grmx600	SRA3	—	6
Xerox	Paper	003R97955 Symphony 80grms A3 green	A3	—	30
Xerox	Paper	003R97956 Colotech 100grms SRA3 white	SRA3	—	48
Xerox	Paper	023R02174 Poster paper 120grms 1067x30 mtrs	A4	—	6
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 160 gsm Dark Red (Box of 1,250 Sheets)	A4	—	3
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A3 80 gsm Dark Blue (Box of 2,500 Sheets)	A3	—	1
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A3 80 gsm Dark Green (Box of 2,500 Sheets)	A3	—	1
Xerox	Paper	Xerox Printing Paper Symphony Tint A4 160 gsm Mid Green (Box of 1,250 Sheets)	A4	—	3

Driving Offences

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average *(a)* fine and *(b)* custodial sentence was for convictions for motor offences which resulted in (i) injury and (ii) death in the last 10 years. [320162]

Claire Ward: The available information is provided in the following table.

Average fine and average sentence length for motor offences which resulted in death, 1998 to 2008

		1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
404	*Causing death by dangerous driving*[1]											
	Total fined	9	6	4	4	6	1	3	1	2	3	3
	Average fine (£)	620.0	1958.3	425.0	562.5	750.0	1200.0	3833.3	300.0	625.0	1250.0	1133.3
	Total given immediate custody[4]	169	136	166	193	199	217	221	238	210	214	206
	ACSL	38.0	34.3	37.1	39.0	39.2	43.0	44.4	44.8	43.7	44.1	48.8
	Total sentenced	203	173	193	226	228	233	241	254	223	233	221
406	*Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs*											
	Total fined	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
	Average fine (£)	200.0	—	—	500.0	—	—	—	1000.0	—	1500.0	—
	Total given immediate custody	58	45	49	48	61	58	59	62	64	65	45
	ACSL	37.1	41.7	38.3	43.4	40.9	44.0	43.4	42.4	40.8	39.2	46.6
	Total sentenced	63	46	53	51	66	60	62	66	65	67	46
408	*Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving*[1]											
	Total fined	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
	Average fine (£)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	875.0
	Total given immediate custody	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
	ACSL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
	Total sentenced	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4

Average fine and average sentence length for motor offences which resulted in death, 1998 to 2008

		1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
409	*Causing death by driving - unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured drivers*[6]											
	Total fined	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
	Average fine (£)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
	Total given immediate custody	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
	ACSL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
	Total sentenced	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
804	*Causing bodily harm by furious driving*[2]											
	Total fined	3	0	2	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0
	Average fine (£)	650.0	—	400.0	—	250.0	375.0	—	250.0	—	—	—
	Total given immediate custody	1	6	5	4	8	5	7	2	4	0	4
	ACSL	6.0	7.5	11.6	11.5	8.7	14.4	11.5	11.0	9.5	—	11.2
	Total sentenced	9	11	12	7	13	11	13	8	7	5	11
3701	*Aggravated taking where, owing to the driving of the vehicle, an accident occurs causing the death of any person*[3]											
	Total fined	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Average fine (£)	—	—	250.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total given immediate custody	12	3	8	8	8	11	8	8	6	8	4
	ACSL	36.6	34.9	36.5	39.0	38.3	42.0	42.7	43.5	42.1	42.1	47.5
	Total sentenced	19	7	11	11	11	14	11	23	11	18	4

[1] Road Traffic Act 1988.

[2] Offences against the Person Act 1861.

[3] Theft Act 1968 as added by Aggravated Vehicle-Taking Act 1992.

[4] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

[5] 408 Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving, (Road Traffic Act 1988 s.2B was added by the Road Safety Act 2006) commenced in August 2008.

[6] 409 Causing death by driving: unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured drivers, (Road Traffic Act 1988 S.3ZB was added by the Road Safety Act 2006) commenced in August 2008.

Note:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
2. These data have been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people have been convicted of dangerous driving in each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion of those convicted were repeat offenders in each year; [320164]

(2) how many people in each age group have been convicted of causing death or bodily harm through driving in each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion of those convicted were repeat offenders. [320168]

Maria Eagle: The number of persons found guilty at all courts in England and Wales of dangerous driving, by police force area, from 1999 to 2008 (latest available) is shown in table 1. These figures have been drawn from the Court Proceedings Database.

The proportion of convictions for dangerous driving where the offender had a previous conviction for dangerous driving, as recorded on the Police National Computer, by police force area, from 2000 to 2008 is given in table 2.

The figures in this table are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police. PNC data have been used for this table rather than the court proceedings data that forms the source of the published conviction statistics, as the PNC provides information on the criminal history of offenders. Figures prior to 2000 are not available.

The number of persons on the Court Proceedings Database found guilty at all courts in England and Wales of causing death or bodily harm through driving, by age group and police force area (which is the smallest geographic area for which statistics are available), from 1999 to 2008 can be found in tables 3A and 3B.

Figures taken from the Police National Computer show that between 2000 and 2008 three offenders were convicted for an offence of causing death or bodily harm through driving having been convicted previously for a similar offence.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned to be published in the autumn 2010.

Table 1: The number of persons found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for dangerous driving[1], by police force area, from 1999 to 2008[2,3,4]

Police force area	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008[4]*
Avon and Somerset	115	117	110	142	164	169	153	114	116	93
Bedfordshire	27	28	36	38	54	36	43	44	40	55
Cambridgeshire	77	61	67	74	95	78	72	77	52	50
Cheshire	80	83	79	77	97	104	70	84	72	59
City of London	3	4	8	9	6	8	7	4	2	1
Cleveland	66	57	72	82	79	101	72	66	63	56
Cumbria	52	54	48	62	79	72	63	59	88	63
Derbyshire	86	88	95	107	105	108	58	60	65	54
Devon and Cornwall	75	63	78	78	85	75	67	52	57	54
Dorset	15	24	36	37	52	50	44	23	34	23
Durham	49	49	62	66	85	89	55	61	44	35
Essex	94	74	69	95	99	104	89	76	91	63
Gloucestershire	48	54	49	45	52	52	56	34	29	34
Greater Manchester	330	368	315	390	433	427	328	292	281	225
Hampshire	134	158	158	158	144	130	113	95	104	108
Hertfordshire	36	47	37	53	71	69	73	76	56	40
Humberside	67	79	82	75	103	91	79	94	79	80
Kent	66	62	66	93	116	94	93	91	76	76
Lancashire	129	138	120	156	147	132	117	135	126	87
Leicestershire	75	97	121	114	126	118	87	61	53	60
Lincolnshire	45	39	41	45	49	44	33	36	33	32
Merseyside	112	99	126	122	169	243	233	152	189	128
Metropolitan police	317	359	390	446	562	570	515	475	442	396
Norfolk	47	31	32	59	67	60	56	59	72	36
North Yorkshire	64	61	60	77	65	70	63	73	66	63
Northamptonshire	64	56	27	32	36	77	46	50	43	52
Northumbria	227	185	196	193	187	191	170	171	157	123
Nottinghamshire	101	118	125	148	218	167	128	103	93	95
South Yorkshire	121	165	116	143	194	149	126	121	115	114
Staffordshire	61	49	66	81	75	65	70	107	62	85
Suffolk	54	43	50	60	50	51	42	36	67	54
Surrey	23	29	25	42	50	33	26	23	35	25
Sussex	71	56	82	75	65	64	83	66	61	54
Thames Valley	81	98	105	150	129	115	129	125	147	121
Warwickshire	36	28	29	35	40	33	63	63	51	43
West Mercia	111	72	78	106	108	102	117	104	89	92
West Midlands	231	289	349	451	448	488	397	413	320	272
West Yorkshire	205	186	162	247	278	279	249	178	216	183
Wiltshire	38	48	40	49	53	43	45	34	31	23
Dyfed-Powys	62	53	37	59	52	58	39	46	42	35
Gwent	86	95	64	86	95	79	84	68	60	44
North Wales	57	54	63	52	71	85	74	63	63	55
South Wales	170	172	203	206	198	187	168	150	136	93
Total England and Wales	4,008	4,090	4,174	4,915	5,451	5,360	4,695	4,314	4,118	3,534

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[1] Includes offences of aiding, abetting, causing or permitting reckless driving under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s.2 as amended by the Road Traffic Act 1991 s.2.

[2] The figures given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.'

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: Proportion of convictions for dangerous driving where the offender had a previous conviction for dangerous driving, as recorded on the Police National Computer[1]

									Percentage
Police force	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	21	19	22	27	22	18	19	15	18
Bedfordshire	*	*	*	14	*	*	14	*	19
Cambridgeshire	10	11	14	12	13	14	7	*	*
Cheshire	5	7	8	11	10	16	9	10	6
City of London	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cleveland	12	15	12	14	18	19	19	13	16
Cumbria	9	*	12	13	19	15	10	11	12
Derbyshire	11	9	13	11	13	11	13	16	13
Devon and Cornwall	16	6	17	11	15	4	11	14	14
Dorset	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Durham	*	*	21	16	18	16	12	*	*
Dyfed-Powys	*	*	12	*	5	*	*	*	*
Essex	15	6	4	8	8	10	6	7	18
Gloucestershire	12	*	*	27	19	*	*	*	*
Greater Manchester	11	14	19	18	14	22	18	15	14
Gwent	18	20	20	17	17	25	16	10	12
Hampshire	10	8	16	11	12	11	11	6	7
Hertfordshire	*	*	11	15	9	3	11	12	*
Humberside	9	17	13	14	13	15	26	9	25
Kent	19	8	9	9	10	11	9	13	12
Lancashire	11	10	10	14	12	9	12	11	11
Leicestershire	18	13	13	15	16	13	22	19	14
Lincolnshire	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Merseyside	16	11	17	14	13	16	17	11	9
Metropolitan police	9	11	10	8	11	9	10	12	11
Norfolk	*	*	10	13	14	*	11	8	*
North Wales	9	10	11	11	14	9	9	13	11
North Yorkshire	2	9	11	15	12	8	14	11	10
Northamptonshire	10	*	13	14	14	*	*	10	*
Northumbria	16	23	19	24	18	18	15	19	13
Nottinghamshire	11	17	15	19	18	19	11	26	11
South Wales	20	24	23	22	22	22	27	24	21
South Yorkshire	8	11	14	15	13	9	19	19	15
Staffordshire	9	13	6	13	18	4	12	10	11
Suffolk	*	*	10	14	*	*	*	0	9
Surrey	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Sussex	*	13	6	13	17	9	7	14	10
Thames Valley	6	5	18	11	14	8	14	10	10
Warwickshire	*	*	*	*	*	9	10	9	*
West Mercia	8	7	7	8	10	9	5	8	6
West Midlands	13	8	11	13	11	13	19	17	18
West Yorkshire	11	15	12	16	12	17	15	15	18
Wiltshire	*	*	12	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	12	13	14	14	14	14	14	13	13

* Indicates that the total number of convictions recorded on the PNC was less than 50. For small numbers this could give misleading percentage changes.

[1] As with any large scale recording system, the data are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services Ministry of Justice.

Table 3A: The number of persons aged under 21 found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for causing death or bodily harm through driving[1]*, by police force area, from 1999 to 2008*[2,3,4]

Police force area	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[1]
Avon and Somerset	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1
Bedfordshire	2	1	1	—	1	—	1	2	—	1
Cambridgeshire	1	—	—	3	—	1	1	—	2	1
Cheshire	1	2	1	—	1	3	5	3	—	—
Cleveland	—	2	—	1	—	—	3	2	2	—
Cumbria	—	—	1	2	1	1	3	—	2	—
Derbyshire	3	1	—	1	1	1	1	—	2	1
Devon and Cornwall	2	1	3	1	1	1	10	1	7	2
Dorset	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	2	2	—
Durham	1	—	1	1	3	4	1	—	1	—
Essex	—	2	2	4	—	2	1	1	2	4
Gloucestershire	2	—	1	—	3	1	—	2	1	1

Table 3A: The number of persons aged under 21 found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for causing death or bodily harm through driving[1], by police force area, from 1999 to 2008[2,3,4]

Police force area	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008[3]*
Greater Manchester	1	7	6	1	9	6	5	3	5	—
Hampshire	1	1	1	1	—	1	2	4	2	—
Hertfordshire	2	1	—	—	3	2	—	—	1	3
Humberside	1	5	1	—	2	1	1	1	1	—
Kent	1	—	1	1	2	1	—	2	3	—
Lancashire	—	3	1	2	3	3	2	1	2	1
Leicestershire	1	—	3	—	2	3	4	—	1	2
Lincolnshire	1	—	1	—	2	1	—	2	1	1
Merseyside	3	3	7	5	7	4	1	9	4	—
Metropolitan police	5	7	7	7	6	7	7	7	3	5
Norfolk	—	1	2	2	2	—	—	3	2	—
North Yorkshire	—	3	2	2	1	1	—	3	3	2
Northamptonshire	—	—	2	1	—	2	3	2	—	1
Northumbria	—	1	2	2	3	3	1	1	1	1
Nottinghamshire	1	—	—	3	2	1	3	4	—	—
South Yorkshire	3	—	2	3	1	4	8	5	—	—
Staffordshire	2	1	1	1	—	7	—	3	1	—
Suffolk	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Surrey	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	1
Sussex	4	3	3	—	—	—	3	—	1	3
Thames Valley	1	5	5	5	3	4	—	3	4	4
Warwickshire	1	1	1	3	—	—	—	2	—	2
West Mercia	2	—	1	1	1	1	3	3	4	2
West Midlands	4	4	6	8	4	5	6	6	5	3
West Yorkshire	1	3	7	5	6	2	10	5	—	5
Wiltshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Dyfed-Powys	1	—	—	—	3	1	—	1	—	1
Gwent	2	2	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	—
North Wales	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
South Wales	4	1	1	3	—	4	1	4	2	—
Total England and Wales	58	68	78	73	77	80	91	92	71	49

[1] Includes offences of: Causing death by dangerous driving; Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs; Causing death by driving—unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured drivers; Causing bodily harm by furious driving; Aggravated taking of a vehicle where, owing to the driving of the vehicle, an accident occurs causing the death of any person.

[2] The figures given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice.

Table 3B: The number of persons aged 21 and over found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for causing death or bodily harm through driving[1], by police force area, from 1999 to 2008[2,3,4]

Police force area	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	4	5	5	11	10	8	6	4	2	4
Bedfordshire	1	4	2	8	6	2	4	1	3	3
Cambridgeshire	4	10	4	5	9	5	3	8	5	7
Cheshire	6	7	3	5	4	3	3	3	2	4
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	1	3	2	2	3	5	4	1	1	4
Cumbria	2	2	4	5	2	7	4	5	5	2
Derbyshire	3	4	3	3	10	4	4	3	2	2
Devon and Cornwall	4	3	5	2	4	4	10	4	6	8
Dorset	1	—	4	2	2	3	3	1	1	—
Durham	2	1	1	4	2	6	8	—	—	1
Essex	4	1	8	10	6	3	8	4	6	5
Gloucestershire	—	4	4	3	1	5	4	2	3	1
Greater Manchester	8	17	14	22	11	14	11	5	7	17
Hampshire	5	9	6	4	7	3	4	5	8	9
Hertfordshire	3	2	7	5	4	3	4	2	4	5
Humberside	7	2	5	2	7	7	10	7	6	5
Kent	8	5	5	10	2	6	9	7	6	10
Lancashire	4	1	6	8	3	9	6	3	10	9

Table 3B: The number of persons aged 21 and over found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for causing death or bodily harm through driving[1], by police force area, from 1999 to 2008[2 3 4]

Police force area	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Leicestershire	5	5	6	3	5	7	4	2	11	4
Lincolnshire	5	5	6	4	8	10	2	5	2	9
Merseyside	1	3	8	5	5	10	5	4	5	2
Metropolitan police	23	19	21	24	28	23	25	24	26	24
Norfolk	2	2	2	4	3	2	3	4	3	4
North Yorkshire	1	6	3	4	3	8	10	5	10	4
Northamptonshire	2	5	3	4	2	4	6	7	6	8
Northumbria	5	5	4	6	8	8	7	6	6	4
Nottinghamshire	4	—	5	5	7	9	5	2	6	3
South Yorkshire	2	5	4	7	5	9	3	3	5	7
Staffordshire	1	2	2	6	7	4	7	5	8	6
Suffolk	—	1	3	3	1	2	3	4	4	2
Surrey	2	2	2	4	3	—	2	3	8	2
Sussex	6	4	2	6	3	6	4	12	7	5
Thames Valley	10	11	12	7	11	8	12	17	20	12
Warwickshire	—	1	6	3	2	2	5	2	4	1
West Mercia	7	4	7	5	4	9	5	4	7	5
West Midlands	6	12	14	7	9	10	10	10	8	6
West Yorkshire	7	8	11	13	11	11	16	15	13	13
Wiltshire	6	3	5	2	5	1	6	1	3	4
Dyfed-Powys	2	6	—	1	—	1	2	1	4	2
Gwent	1	4	2	2	4	—	6	—	1	4
North Wales	3	—	1	2	4	1	4	4	4	7
South Wales	11	9	4	9	9	4	3	7	5	4
Total England and Wales	179	202	221	244	240	247	260	212	253	238

[1] Includes offences of: Causing death by dangerous driving; Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs; Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving; Causing bodily harm by furious driving; Aggravated taking of a vehicle where, owing to the driving of the vehicle, an accident occurs causing the death of any person.

[2] The figures given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice.

General Election 2010: Poole

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with returning officers in Poole on the timing of the general election vote count. [320382]

Mr. Wills: The acting returning officer for Poole has provided the Ministry of Justice with helpful information on the practical issues surrounding the timing of the count at the next UK parliamentary general election.

This information along with the views received from other key stakeholders, including the Electoral Commission, Association of Electoral Administrators and SOLACE helped to inform the clause that was inserted into the Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill ('CRaG Bill'), at Commons Report stage on 2 March which amends schedule 1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983 (the Parliamentary Elections Rules) to provide that a returning officer must take reasonable steps to begin counting the votes given on the ballot papers as soon as practicable within four hours of the close of poll. The clause also requires that:

(i) the Electoral Commission must produce guidance on this duty;

(ii) in instances where the count does not begin by 2 am, returning officers to publish and send to the Electoral Commission a statement within 30 days of the poll giving the time that the count began, explaining, why it did not begin before 2 am, and setting out the steps taken to begin the count by 2 am.

(iii) the Electoral Commission to list those constituencies that did not start the count before 2 am in its statutory report on the conduct of the election.

I am also aware that the acting returning officer for Poole has advised the Electoral Commission that he intends to commence the count on the night of the general election poll.

Grimsby

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Great Grimsby constituency, the effects of his Department's policies on that constituency since 1997. [320184]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice's work spans criminal, civil and family justice, democracy, rights and the constitution. Every year around 9 million people use our services in 900 locations across the United Kingdom, including 650 courts and tribunals and 139 prisons in England and Wales.

The range of the Department's policies and actions is wide and the statistical information relating to it is not normally collected on a constituency basis. Consequently, some of the information requested in the question cannot be provided in the form requested except at a disproportionate cost.

Although data on sentencing for the period is not available for the constituency of Great Grimsby, it is available for Humberside. This shows the total number of offenders sentenced annually was 20,950 in 1997 and 14,569 in 2008, the latest period for which such information is available.

The number of offences brought to justice for the Humberside area increased from 18,497 for the 12 months ending 31 March 2001 (the earliest period since which such data has been compiled) to 26,584 (provisional figures) for the 12 months ending 31 March 2009.

With regard to prosecutions, data is not available for the constituency of Great Grimsby. However, the total number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts in Humberside was 26,798 in 1997 compared to 19,101 in 2008.

The latest data, which covers reoffending in the period 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2009, showed that the three month reoffending rate for offenders on the probation caseload in North East Lincolnshire was 12.53 per cent. After controlling for changes in the characteristics of offenders on the probation caseload, there was an increase in reoffending of 1.26 per cent. compared to the 2007-08 baseline. Data is not available prior to 2007 on this basis.

The number of persons commencing court order supervision by the Probation Service in Humberside was 2,139 in 1997 and 3,450 in 2008.

56,172 civil non-family proceedings were started in the county courts of Humber and South Yorkshire HM Courts Service (HMCS) area in 2008, compared to 61,944 in 1998, the first year for which these figures are available. In respect of family law, there were also 4,803 private law applications and 303 public law applications made in the county or High Courts of this HMCS area in 2008-09, compared to 4,530 and 385 respectively in 2003-04, the first annual period for which these figures are available.

In addition, at a national level:

Local communities are being better engaged in criminal justice by giving them a say in the types of community payback projects offenders carry out and allowing them to see justice being done, for example through the use of high visibility jackets. Offenders have now worked more than fourteen million hours, with an estimated value to the taxpayer of over £80 million.

Major constitutional reforms have been delivered, including devolution, the Human Rights Act, Freedom of Information, Lords Reform, and a new Supreme Court for the UK.

National Bullying Helpline

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what contact the Prison Service has had with the National Bullying Helpline since 2004; and whether the Prison Service has made any payments to *(a)* the National Bullying Helpline and *(b)* HR and Diversity Management Limited in that period. [320135]

Maria Eagle: The Prison Service has national policies designed to keep prisoners, staff and visitors safe from bullying. These policies do not promote the National Bullying Helpline. Whether prisons locally or offices have ever had any contact with the National Bullying Helpline since 2004 could be known only by contacting each prison and office and asking them to check available information. This would incur disproportionate cost. According to information held centrally, no payments have been made to either the National Bullying Helpline or to HR and Diversity Management Limited.

Prisons: Databases

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when the Local Inmate Database System was introduced; [320082]

(2) what plans there are for the establishment of the Local Inmate Database System (LIDS); and what plans there are for the future of the national LIDS database. [320083]

Maria Eagle: The Prison Service Local Inmate Database System (LIDS) was introduced in 1989.

LIDS is being replaced by a new case management system, called Prison-NOMIS (Prison-National Offender Management Information System). Prison-NOMIS is a national system with a centralised database. It is on schedule to be deployed to public prisons by summer 2010.

Prisons: Drugs

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether he has made an estimate of the incidence of serious organised crime in prison which involves the trafficking of drugs; [320097]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the level of serious organised crime activity in prisons. [320099]

Maria Eagle: Covert criminal activity is, of its nature, very difficult to quantify.

Prisons have a well established security information reporting framework. Where concerns are identified about a prisoner's potential criminal activity, prisons can draw on a range of measures to identify and disrupt that activity.

NOMS is also fully engaged in action to address serious and organised crime strategically, including the work identified in the Government report "Extending Our Reach: A Comprehensive Approach to Tackling Serious Organised Crime" to develop a strategy to manage serious organised criminals while in prison.

Prisons: Females

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what arrangements have been made to re-categorise *(a)* HMP Morton Hall and *(b)* HMP Foston Hall from semi-open to closed prisons; and if he will make a statement; [320165]

(2) what assessment his Department undertook on the effect on women in prison of the removal of the semi-open category of prison. [320185]

Maria Eagle: On 11 February 2009 the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) announced the re-designation of both HMP Morton Hall and HMP/YOI Drake Hall from semi-open to closed prisons. There are no plans to change this decision.

The re-designation, which took effect on 2 March 2009, allowed NOMS to more effectively provide for the needs of all women prisoners through greater flexibility in the use of the estate. It has also improved closeness to home for some women, supported the placement of indeterminate sentenced women in accordance with their needs, and in general enabled more women to access the resettlement regimes available at these two prisons. There was no requirement to move any of the women out of either prison as a result of the change. Both establishments retained their levels of internal and perimeter security and their resettlement regimes, including their roles as specialist foreign national centres. Women suitable for open conditions are able to go these prisons if such a move meets their resettlement needs.

Prisons: Mobile Phones

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many illicit mobile phones were found in each prison in England and Wales in each of the last 12 months; and how many of those phones were found *(a)* on staff, *(b)* on prisoners and *(c)* in communal areas. [320095]

Maria Eagle: The Government are committed to reducing the number of mobile phones in prisons. We have already strengthened the law through the Offender Management Act 2007, which made it an offence with a penalty of up to two years' imprisonment to bring a mobile phone or component into a prison. We are also taking forward legislation through the Crime and Security Bill to criminalise the possession of devices, including mobile telephones within a prison without authorisation.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not hold centrally disaggregated information on the location or ownership of phones seized. Many phones and component parts are not attributable to individuals. Prisons in England and Wales are instructed to send mobile phones and SIM cards found to a central unit for analysis, it is from this unit's records that this answer is based. The figures contained in the tables have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing data, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. These data are not subject to audit.

The figures understate the actual number of finds, because they do not include items retained by the police for evidential purposes and phones not submitted for other reasons. It is not always appropriate to send phones to the central unit and some phones sent are not interrogated. These have not been included in these figures. NOMS is putting in place new procedures to improve the accuracy of these statistics.

Tackling mobile phones in prison presents substantial and increasing technological challenges, and while the numbers of phones found clearly indicates the scale of the challenge, it is also a reflection of prisons' increasing success in finding them and better reporting. The following tables show the number of mobile phones and SIM cards that have been received from each of the prisons over the last 12 months.

Mobile phone and sim cards submitted to central unit (February 2009 to January 2010)

High Security

	February		*March*		*April*		*May*		*June*		*July*		*August*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Belmarsh			1											
Full Sutton				1										1
Frankland		2						2						
Long Lartin	6	2	1	1			1	2	1	2		3		
Manchester	6	6	3	3	8	6	12	15	1	1	5	4	1	2
Wakefield														
Woodhill														
Whitemoor		1	2	2			1	1		2			1	1
Total	12	11	7	7	8	6	14	20	2	5	5	7	2	4

	September		*October*		*November*		*December*		*January*		*Total*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Belmarsh								2			1	3
Full Sutton								2	1	1	1	6
Frankland											0	2
Long Lartin	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	13	14
Manchester	5	1	1	6			1		9	12	52	56
Wakefield											0	0
Woodhill					1	1	1	1			2	2
Whitemoor			1	2			1	2			6	11
Total	6	2	3	9	2	2	3	7	11	14	75	94

London

	February		*March*		*April*		*May*		*June*		*July*		*August*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Brixton	3	4			25	23	1	1	7	6	3	2		
Feltham			14	13	10	12	14	11	10	12	3	2	7	9
Holloway									3	4				1
Latchmere House							1		4	2			1	

London

	February		*March*		*April*		*May*		*June*		*July*		*August*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Pentonville	—	—	—	—	1	1	17	15	17	10	10	14	15	13
Wandsworth	2	3	8	7	9	12	—	—	—	—	21	19	—	4
Wormwood Scrubs	3	4	8	7	14	9	8	12	8	6	5	6	13	11
Total	8	12	30	27	39	57	41	39	49	40	42	43	36	38

	September		*October*		*November*		*December*		*January*		*Total*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Brixton	2	2	14	12	4	4	2	6	9	9	70	70
Feltham	3	5	8	9	3	2	3	3	4	2	19	60
Holloway	1	1		1			2	2	—	—	6	9
Latchmere House	2		2		2	3	5		1	1	18	6
Pentonville	10	11	21	18	16	14	17	19	9	5	133	120
Wandsworth			5	4					3	1	48	50
Wormwood Scrubs	12	15	10	7	14	18	9	9	18	15	122	119
Total	30	34	60	51	39	41	38	39	44	33	476	453

Wales

	February		*March*		*April*		*May*		*June*		*July*		*August*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Cardiff	2	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	4	3	2	3	3
Swansea	—	—	1	2	3	3	—	—	4	5	1	1	5	3
Usk/Prescoed	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Parc	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	4	1	—	1	1
Total	2	3	3	4	6	5	3	5	11	13	5	3	10	7

	September		*October*		*November*		*December*		*January*		*Total*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Cardiff	1	1	5	3	1	1	4	6	2	3	28	30
Swansea	6	5	4	4	4	5	11	11	3	3	42	42
Usk/Prescoed	—		—	1	—	—	1	1	—		5	4
Parc	1	2	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	5	12	16
Total	8	8	9	8	6	6	17	19	7	11	87	92

South East

	February		*March*		*April*		*May*		*June*		*July*		*August*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Albany	—	—	—	—	1	1								
Aylesbury	—	—	1	2	2	6	1	2	2	2	12	11	—	—
Blantyre House	—	—			—		1	—			3		2	2
Bronzefield			3	4							3	4	3	4
Bullingdon	1	—	4	3	2	2	4	5	4	2		1	1	1
Camp Hill	2	2	—	—					1				2	1
Canterbury	1	5	1	1			1	1	3	2	3	1		
Coldingley	—	—							1				1	1
Cookham Wood	—	—	—	—	2	2					1	2		—
Dover	3	1	—		1	1							8	5
Downview	—	—	1	2										
East Sutton Park	—	—							1	1				—
Elmley	5	15	3	5	5	2	6	6	4	4	—	1	1	2
Ford	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	—	—
Grendon	—	—	1	1	18	9								
Haslar														
Highdown	1	—	16	14	6	2				—	5	4	5	4
Huntercombe			1	2	—	—	2	4			1	1	2	2
Kingston	1	1												
Lewes														
Maidstone	3	3	2	2					3	4	3	3	1	3
Parkhurst	1	1	2	6	1	1	2	—	2	1	2	3	2	1

South East

	February		*March*		*April*		*May*		*June*		*July*		*August*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Reading	—	—	—	7	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	2	2	4
Rochester	1	1	5	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Send	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	3	—	—
Springhill	19	9	—	—	—	—	5	3	8	5	8	6	1	1
Standford Hill	2	2	1	1	2	2	16	10	8	4	14	11	6	5
Swaleside	4	4	2	1	4	4	6	7	6	10	10	9	9	8
Winchester	—	—	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total	44	44	47	57	46	36	48	42	44	36	71	66	46	44

	September		*October*		*November*		*December*		*January*		*Total*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Albany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Aylesbury	8	7	—	—	7	6	6	6	13	14	52	56
Blantyre House	—	—	—	—	4	—	2	—	—	—	12	2
Bronzefield	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	15	19
Bullingdon	1	—	6	3	—	—	3	2	2	3	28	22
Camp Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	6	6
Canterbury	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	14	13
Coldingley	3	4	4	5	1	—	—	—	1	1	11	11
Cookham Wood	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	5
Dover	2	—	6	4	5	1	9	5	4	2	36	19
Downview	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	3
East Sutton Park	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	2	3
Elmley	4	7	2	2	1	1	4	5	1	2	36	52
Ford	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	6	8
Grendon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	10
Haslar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	8
Highdown	4	3	2	1	—	—	1	1	4	4	44	33
Huntercombe	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	10
Kingston	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Lewes	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Maidstone	5	6	5	9	—	—	1	2	5	6	28	36
Parkhurst	10	9	4	6	—	—	—	2	—	—	26	30
Reading	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	—	—	12	13
Rochester	—	—	—	1	2	3	1	3	1	1	10	18
Send	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	5	6
Springhill	—	1	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	44	9
Standford Hill	6	5	7	6	18	11	4	2	5	5	69	62
Swaleside	4	5	6	6	6	11	7	5	8	5	72	77
Winchester	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	3	10	10
Total	56	53	47	47	48	38	45	36	54	55	586	536

South West

	February		*March*		*April*		*May*		*June*		*July*		*August*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Ashfield	—	—	1	2	—	1	6	6	1	1	—	—	2	2
Bristol	—	—	—	—	3	3	10	8	6	6	7	9	3	3
Channings Wood	6	6	6	8	4	4	2	7	3	3	1	2	5	5
Dartmoor	2	—	8	6	1	1	9	8	3	3	4	5	3	1
Dorchester	1	1	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastwood Park	3	2	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	6
Erlestoke	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exeter	3	3	—	—	1	—	4	7	1	1	1	1	1	1
Gloucester	16	12	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Guys Marsh	3	1	—	—	5	4	9	6	9	7	19	15	26	17
Leyhill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	6	8	10	5
Portland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shepton Mallet	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	1
The Verne	1	1	3	3	1	2	5	4	3	2	3	2	—	—
Total	35	26	21	23	18	20	47	47	30	26	43	42	56	42

	September		*October*		*November*		*December*		*January*		*Total*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Ashfield	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	13
Bristol	2	2	4	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	36	34
Channings Wood	—	6	2	2	—	—	2	3	2	1	33	45
Dartmoor	3	1	3	2	3	1	6	5	3	3	48	36
Dorchester	—	—	1	—	1	1	3	2	—	—	8	7
Eastwood Park	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	13
Erlestoke	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1
Exeter	2	4	2	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	18	22
Gloucester	3	3	2	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	26	21
Guys Marsh	18	17	3	4	9	3	11	13	8	6	120	93
Leyhill	—	—	7	8	18	15	12	11	5	4	59	53
Portland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Shepton Mallet	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	8
The Verne	2	2	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	2	25	24
Total	32	38	28	27	36	23	37	36	21	18	404	370

East of England

	February		*March*		*April*		*May*		*June*		*July*		*August*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Bedford	—	—	4	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Blundeston	5	9	—	1	1	1	1	2	2	5	1	3	3	3
Bullwood Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chelmsford	3	4	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	1	—	3	—	—
Edmunds Hill	1	1	3	3	1	3	1	3	2	1	2	1	5	5
Highpoint	16	10	6	3	3	3	5	5	1	1	3	6	2	4
Hollesley Bay	5	3	9	6	3	1	6	5	1	—	2	3	15	8
Littlehey	1	1	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	3	—	—
The Mount	—	—	1	7	9	7	18	22	15	12	10	14	12	13
Norwich	2	3	1	1	1	4	7	8	2	—	3	3	1	1
Peterborough	2	2	13	11	1	1	4	9	6	5	6	9	10	12
Warren Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wayland	2	2	3	4	2	1	2	9	3	4	—	5	7	5
Total	37	35	42	39	21	21	48	65	35	29	28	51	55	51

	September		*October*		*November*		*December*		*January*		*Total*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Bedford	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	7
Blundeston	1	1	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	19	30
Bullwood Hall	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Chelmsford	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	1	3	3	14	13
Edmunds Hill	4	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	1	22	19
Highpoint	1	3	—	—	[illegible]	2	2	2	3	3	43	42
Hollesley Bay	5	4	10	11	11	4	12	8	13	11	92	64
Littlehey	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	6	7
The Mount	8	7	12	[illegible]	3	5	5	3	8	8	101	109
Norwich	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	20
Peterborough	13	10	7	10	3	1	9	11	8	11	82	92
Warren Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Wayland	—	—	6	6	1	3	—	—	5	6	31	41
Total	33	28	43	43	22	17	31	25	40	45	435	445

East Midlands

	February		*March*		*April*		*May*		*June*		*July*		*August*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Ashwell	3	5	5	3	2	2			4	4	—	2	1	2
Foston Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gartree	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	9	1	1
Glen Parva	—	—	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leicester	2	3	1	1	3	2	5	4	7	6	7	10	6	5

East Midlands

	February		*March*		*April*		*May*		*June*		*July*		*August*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Lincoln	1		1	2	4	7	2	5	1	2	4	3	1	
Lowdham Grange	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Morton Hall	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Sea Camp	2	1	3	6	3	—	—	—	3	4	4	7	3	1
Nottingham	—	1	—	1	1	2	3	5	—	1	2	3	—	—
Onley	1	—	2	4	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	1
Ranby	4	3	4	4	1	—	—	—	4	5	3	2	—	—
Rye Hill	—	1	11	9	6	8	8	7	16	24	8	20	21	16
Stocken	—	—	—	—	5	5	1	—	1	1	—	—	2	2
Sudbury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Wellingborough	9	14	5	6	10	11	—	1	14	13	2	1	11	8
Whatton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	27	30	38	43	35	37	20	22	52	61	31	57	47	36

	September		*October*		*November*		*December*		*January*		*Total*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Ashwell	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	15	20
Fosten Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Gartree	10	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	15	19
Glen Parva	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	7
Leicester	2	3	2	1	5	3	2	2	2	2	44	42
Lincoln	3	2	5	4	3	2	3	5	—	—	28	32
Lowdham Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	2
Morton Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
North Sea Camp	1	—	5	8	3	3	3	3	2	2	32	35
Nottingham	3	3		—	—	—	1	1		6	10	23
Onley	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	6
Ranby	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	18
Rye Hill	8	5	7	8	6	10	4	3	5	5	100	116
Stocken	1	1	—	2	—	—	6	8	1	2	17	21
Sudbury	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Wellingborough	—	1	10	15	10	6	10	11	10	13	91	100
Whatton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Total	36	30	33	38	27	24	29	33	23	33	398	444

West Midlands

	February		*March*		*April*		*May*		*June*		*July*		*August*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Birmingham	5	9	4	6	2	—	5	7	4	1	6	6	12	8
Brinsford	—	—	1	4	1	1	3	3	2	2	8	7	6	4
Dovegate	3	3		2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
Drake Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Featherstone	15	17	3	5	2	2	4	1	11	18	8	12	—	1
Hewell	4	5	1	2	10	10	2	7	8	10	9	14	12	12
Shrewsbury	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	2
Stafford	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—
Stoke Heath	4	—	1	—	3	4	8	7	4	6	2	3	5	6
Swinfen Hall	3	3	4	2	2	1	1	1	6	5	5	4	2	4
Werrington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	3	—	—
Total	35	39	15	21	22	21	23	26	38	44	40	51	42	40

	September		*October*		*November*		*December*		*January*		*Total*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Birmingham	5	9	11	9	10	11	6	9	16	15	86	90
Brinsford	1	1	3	5	4	1	4	2	3	3	36	33
Dovegate	—	—	13	14	2	5	6	8	3	4	30	41
Drake Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Featherstone	5	3	—	2	1	5	2	3	1	—	52	69

	September		*October*		*November*		*December*		*January*		*Total*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Hewell	13	6	12	8	10	7	1	1	6	6	88	88
Shrewsbury		—	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	9	8
Stafford	2	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	2	—	7	5
Stoke Heath	4	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	—	—	35	33
Swinfen Hall	1	1	1	3	1	—	—	3	1	3	27	30
Werrington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4
Total	31	21	43	46	31	32	21	29	32	31	373	401

York and Humberside

	February		*March*		*April*		*May*		*June*		*July*		*August*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Askham Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Doncaster	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Everthorpe	7	5	—	—	12	11	—	—	16	15	9	5	10	11
Hull	4	4	7	6	3	2	7	10	2	1	4	3	1	2
Leeds	4	7	10	11	3	7	4	1	7	7	2	1	2	—
Lindholme	—	—	—	—	3	2	5	5	14	8	17	20	11	8
Moorland open	—	—	4	2	2	5	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
Moorland closed	4	4	4	3	1	3	2	2	3	3	—	—	2	2
New Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northallerton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wealstun	—	1	6	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	5	—	—
Wetherby	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Wolds	—	—	—	—	2	1	9	10	5	6	—	—	6	4
Total	20	22	32	30	27	32	29	29	49	41	34	35	36	31

	September		*October*		*November*		*December*		*January*		*Total*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Askham Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Doncaster	2	2	—	6	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	13
Everthorpe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	54	47
Hull	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	28	32
Leeds	5	11	1	2	4	5	2	4	1	2	45	58
Lindholme	11	9	9	8	5	9	7	4	15	9	97	82
Moorland open	1	3	3	1	5	2	4	5	2	—	23	18
Moorland closed	6	7	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	1	26	28
New Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Northallerton	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Wealstun	4	5	1	1	3	3	1	2	—	—	20	27
Wetherby	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	5	4
Wolds	15	13	8	9	7	7	5	2	11	11	68	63
Total	44	50	24	28	26	32	22	19	32	24	375	373

North West

	February		*March*		*April*		*May*		*June*		*July*		*August*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Altcourse	23	20	11	9	21	21	18	21	12	11	16	19	11	13
Buckley Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—
Forest Bank	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			13	15
Garth	4	2	5	6	8	12	4	3	3	2	4	4	17	19
Haverigg	4	3	6	4	5	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Hindley	2	4	—	—	1	1	2	2	—	—	—		1	1
Kennet	1	7	7	6	—	—	11	10	3	2	9	5	9	2
Kirkham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	7	6	63	13
Lancaster Castle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
Lancaster Farms	—	1	2	2	1	—	—	—	24	22	2	1	—	—
Liverpool	3	—	6	10	43	42	25	29	29	30	7	8	3	1
Preston	—	—	10	16	6	8	—	—	5	8	1	5	3	3
Risley	—	—	5	8	6	7	2	2	10	15	7	9	2	4
Styal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2

	North West													
	February		*March*		*April*		*May*		*June*		*July*		*August*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Thorn Cross	2	—	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1				
Wymott	4	3	—	1	18	16	11	8	8	6	10	8	5	9
Total	20	40	54	63	110	111	74	77	97	99	66	67	131	85

	September		*October*		*November*		*December*		*January*		*Total*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Altcourse	10	13	17	16	63	61	30	25	69	73	278	302
Buckley Hall	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	5	5
Forest Bank	6	9	—	—	3	—	3	2	5	5	30	31
Garth	1	3	5	3	4	4	2	2	5	8	62	68
Haverigg	1	—	1	1	4	2	6	5	3	1	31	19
Hindley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	8
Kennet	2	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	3	3	47	37
Kirkham	15	12	17	2	51	17	21	11	30	13	205	75
Lancaster Castle	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	6
Lancaster Farms	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	7	33	33
Liverpool	9	10	20	17	10	8	—	—	14	29	169	175
Preston	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	28	44
Risley	4	2	11	11	6	9	3	2	2	4	58	73
Styal	[illegible]	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5
Thorn Cross	2	2	1	2	4	4	7	9	8	5	29	28
Wymott	10	9	7	10	3	1	4	3	2	2	82	76
Total	63	63	82	66	148	109	83	64	145	141	1073	985

	North East													
	February		*March*		*April*		*May*		*June*		*July*		*August*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Acklington	1	2	2	2	4	3	1	1	—	—	1	—	9	7
Castington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deerbolt	4	2	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Durham	2	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5
Holme House	4	4	3	2	—	3	4	4	—	1	1	1	2	1
Kirklevington Grange	11	10	9	3	7	5	—	1	—	1	9	2	1	2
Low Newton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	22	20	15	9	11	11	6	9	0	2	11	3	15	15
Grand total	262	284	304	323	363	357	353	377	407	396	376	425	476	393

	September		*October*		*November*		*December*		*January*		*Total*	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Acklington	5	6	1	1	8	5	8	5	12	10	52	42
Castington	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	3	3
Deerbolt	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	6
Durham	3	5	1	1	—	—	4	2	—	—	14	17
Holme House	3	5	1	1	4	3	4	5	5	4	31	34
Kirklevington Grange	5	2	9	6	2	5	7	2	3	2	63	41
Low Newton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Total	16	18	14	10	14	13	24	15	21	18	169	143
Grand total	355	345	386	373	399	337	350	325	430	423	4,461	4,325

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how data found on illicit mobile phones in prisons is being analysed by the prison service. [320098]

Maria Eagle: Data found on illicit mobile phones found in prison is analysed by establishments. However, for security reasons it is not possible to disclose details of how this is undertaken. Analysis of the data found on illicit mobile phones provides a potentially valuable source of intelligence for prisons and law enforcement agencies. Guidance to ensure a greater level of consistency across the estate is due to be circulated shortly.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many pornographic or violent images of (*a*) children and (*b*) adults have been found on illicit mobile phones seized from prisoners in the last three years. [320100]

Maria Eagle: Prisons are responsible for the analysis of the information recovered from mobile phones. Where there is evidence of a criminal offence, the matter is referred to the police. However, the majority of phones seized are not attributable to individual prisoners. The National Offender Management Service does not hold a centrally disaggregated record of the data found on illicit mobile phones found in prisons. To provide the information requested, we would need to contact all prisons in England and Wales, ask them to check their local records and to submit this information to headquarters. This would incur disproportionate cost.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has made a recent assessment of the level of transfer between illicit mobile phones in prisons of violent or pornographic images. [320102]

Maria Eagle: Data found on illicit mobile phones found in prison are analysed by establishments. However, for security reasons it is not possible to disclose details of how this is undertaken. Analysis of the data found on illicit mobile phones provides a potentially valuable source of intelligence for prisons and law enforcement agencies. Guidance to ensure a greater level of consistency across the estate is due to be circulated shortly.

Due to the covert nature of mobile phone use in prisons, we are not able to estimate the number of mobile phones or component parts in circulation, nor are we able to assess their usage.

Probation Officers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department and its predecessor allocated for the (*a*) recruitment and (*b*) training of probation officers in each year since 1997. [317631]

Maria Eagle: Recruitment funding is included in the general grant paid to areas for probation officer training delivery. However, information about the specific local spend on recruitment was not routinely collected and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

The following information is the best quality information that is available but it has been transferred over time from the Home Office Adelphi finance system to the Prison Service Phoenix system and there is the possibility that there may be some gaps.

Details of the funding allocated for the training of probation officers is contained in the following tables.

Trainee probation officer (TPO) costs

Financial year	*Total (£ million)*
2003-04	57.886
2004-05	63.272
2005-06	42.381
2006-07	42.381
2007-08	44.762
2008-09	41.663
2009-10	26.4[illegible]0

Note:

1. The costs detailed include the trainee salary, pension contribution and the university administration cost. Figures are only available from 2003-04 when the Home Office took over responsibility for the higher education contracts.

2. The funding increase in 2004-05 was based on the assumption that Custody Plus would be implemented, requiring a rapid increase in probation officers. When the policy decision was made to suspend this, trainee numbers decreased. The final cohort of Diploma in Probation Studies began their two-year course in October 2008 and the drop in funding in 2009-10 represents the fact that there is only one cohort to fund between October 2009 and April 2010. The new Probation Qualification Framework will be launched in April 2010.

Probation service officer (PSO) costs

Financial year	*Training allocation (£)*
2003-04	n/a
2004-05	928,000
2005-06	772,000
2006-07	800,000
2007-08	800,000
2008-09	2,520,100
2009-10	2,500,000

Note:

The allocation for 2003-04 is not known. In 2005-06, areas were required to bid for PSO training funding. In 2006 to date, funding is provided for 1,000 PSOs at £800 per head per year and Areas are allocated maximum numbers calculated using the cash limit formula. In 2008-09 and 2009-10, an additional investment was made in PSO training in preparation for the launch of the new Probation Qualification Framework in April 2010.

TREASURY

Banks: Loans

Mr. Syms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with UK Financial Investments on the level of bank lending. [320390]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with UKFI as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, the Government do not disclose the outcome or results of all such meetings and discussions.

Carbon Sequestration: Finance

Charles Hendry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to paragraph 7.19, page 123, of the pre-Budget report, Cm 7747, from what level the Government have doubled its support for carbon capture and storage technology. [320373]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: At Budget 2009, the Government made a commitment to fund two CCS demonstration plants. At the pre-Budget report, the Government announced this commitment would be extended to fund four demonstration plants.

Chemical Engineering: Government Assistance

Charles Hendry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to paragraph 7.30, page 125, of the pre-Budget report, Cm 7747, from which budget the £30 million for the Teesside chemicals industry will be allocated. [320368]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The £30 million in support for the chemicals industry on Teesside is part of the £200 million extension to the Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) announced at 2009 pre-Budget report (PBR).

The SIF, which is administered by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, was created in Budget 2009 to support advanced industrial projects of strategic importance. Together with the PBR extension, it has total funds of £950 million. Of this, £400 million is to be spent on low-carbon projects (including the Teesside support).

Climate Change Levy

Charles Hendry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the monetary value of receipts from the Climate Change Levy in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [320512]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Current estimates of Climate Change Levy receipts for 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 are set out in Table B10 of the pre-Budget report 2009.

Economic Situation: Greece

Mr. Syms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the effects on EU member states of the fiscal situation in Greece. [320388]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor of the Exchequer has regular discussions with European Finance Ministers on European economic matters. The situation in Greece was discussed at the last ECOFIN on 16 February.

Excise Duties: Beer

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had concerning the proposal to levy a lower duty on cask beer; and if he will make a statement. [320559]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Alcohol duty policy is restricted by EU rules. It is not possible to levy different rates of duty on cask beer compared to beer sold in other types of packaging.

Financial Services: Local Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will request the Financial Services Authority to make a formal response to the Second Report of the Communities and Local Government Committee, on Local Authority Investments: Role of the Financial Services Authority, HC287. [319729]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) responded to the Communities and Local Government Committee's first report, explaining that the boundaries of regulation are set by HM Treasury, not the FSA.

Public Bodies: Empty Property

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 895W, on empty property, if he will take steps to require all central public bodies to report their actual and vacant properties for the e-PIMS database. [320905]

Ian Pearson: Central civil government departments, their executive agencies and arm's length bodies are already required to record actual and vacant properties on the e-PIMS database.

Public Sector: Energy

Charles Hendry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to paragraph 7.32, page 125, of the pre-Budget report, Cm 7747, what the baseline is for the 10 per cent. reduction in public sector energy spending. [320367]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The commitment to a 10 per cent. reduction in public sector energy spending by financial year 2012-13 is with respect to a baseline of financial year 2008-09.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Charles Hendry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to paragraph 7.25, page 124, of the pre-Budget report, Cm 7747, from which budget the *(a)* £50 million for the development of offshore wind technologies and *(b)* £40 million for the development of low carbon energy and advanced green manufacturing technologies will be allocated. [320366]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: £50 million for the development of offshore wind technologies and £40 million for low carbon energy and advanced green manufacturing technologies are to be funded from the £200 million extension to the Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) announced at 2009 pre-Budget report (PBR).

The SIF, which is administered by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, was created in Budget 2009 to support advanced industrial projects of strategic importance. Together with the PBR extension, it has total funds of £950 million. Of this, £400 million is to be spent on low carbon projects (including the two areas noted above).

Taxation: Domicile

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what tests HM Revenue and Customs applies when determining domicile; and what investigations are normally undertaken in the cause of applying such tests. [320738]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Domicile is a concept of common law that is used in tax law for certain purposes. HM Revenue and Customs applies this legal concept to the facts of each case, those facts being established through the normal inquiry process.

HMRC has produced detailed guidance on domicile which gives an indication of the kind of information and documents that HMRC might request during an inquiry. These lists are not exhaustive. The guidance is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/cnr/domicile-tier2.pdf

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many UK citizens acquired a new domicile of choice and retained long-term UK residence in each year since 2000. [320739]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This information is not available, as individuals are not required to report their UK domicile status or residence status to HM Revenue and Customs unless either is relevant to their liability to UK tax within that year.

UK Financial Investments: Expenditure

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse of *(a)* establishing and *(b)* maintaining UK Financial Investments Ltd has been to date. [319954]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on establishing and maintaining UK Financial Investments Ltd during 2008-09 is shown in Note 13.8.1 on page 214 of HM Treasury Group's Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09 (HC 611).

Information on spending in the current financial year will be available once the financial year has been completed and the Treasury's Resource Account, due for publication in the summer, has been audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Further information on UK Financial Investments Limited's expenditure can be found in its Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09, available at:

www.ukfi.gov.uk

DEFENCE

Afghan Campaign Medal

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the merits of changing the rules under which members of the Royal Air Force Aero-Medical Evacuation Squadron at RAF Lyneham are ineligible for the Afghan Campaign Medal. [317537]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The criteria for campaign medals are always complex, and subject to periodic review. The Ministry of Defence is aware of the situation pertaining to Aero-Medical personnel and consideration of their position is currently under active consideration and we hope to reach a conclusion shortly.

Armed Forces: Bomb Disposal

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many specialist bomb disposal staff were trained in the armed forces in each of the last three years. [320283]

Bill Rammell: Specialist bomb disposal operators are highly skilled officers and senior non-commissioned officers of all three services that are trained to lead bomb disposal teams. The following table provides information on the number who have qualified as Conventional Munitions Disposal and/or Joint Service Improvised Explosive Device Disposal, and/or High Threat Improvised Explosive Device Disposal operators. As a result some personnel will have been recorded more than once.

Training year	*Total*
2007-08	101
2008-09	101
2009 to date	100

To determine those personnel who have completed just a single course would require a manual search of records and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

AWE Aldermaston

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether research at the proposed new hydrodynamics facility at AWE Aldermaston will be undertaken exclusively for defence purposes. [319053]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The work undertaken at the existing hydrodynamics facility at AWE Aldermaston exclusively supports defence activities including the requirement to maintain the skills base for the UK's deterrent capability. It is expected that this would also be the case for any replacement hydrodynamics facility.

Departmental Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary accommodation for civil servants in each of the last 12 months. [314198]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I will write to the hon. Member when I have obtained the information, and will place a copy in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Willie Rennie:

In my answer of 22 February (Official Report, column 19W) I undertook to write to you with details on permanent and temporary accommodation for civil servants in each of the last 12 months.

Civil servants transferring within the Department in the UK may stay in temporary accommodation when they are sent on a long-term temporary basis to a different work location outside of reasonable daily travel of their home. They may also stay in temporary accommodation for a short period prior to occupying their permanent home following a transfer in the UK to a location which gives help with relocation expenses. The number of employees staying in temporary accommodation following a permanent or temporary transfer constantly fluctuates as employees enter or leave the accommodation. To obtain the numbers for each month would involve disproportionate cost, but on average, there are 250+ employees staying in temporary accommodation at any one time. This may be in private rented accommodation, service messes or staying with family or friends in the new area. Costs for each of the last 12 months are as follows:

2009 temporary accommodation

Month	*Amount £*
January	123,447
February	106,178
March	129,840
April	122,364
May	95,590
June	106,730
July	108,687
August	99,980
September	102,421
October	104,422
November	98,532
December	110,122

The responsibility for permanent accommodation costs at the normal place of work is a personal one. However, civil servants who are transferred on permanent terms to a new location where they may receive help with relocation costs may be eligible to receive assistance with Additional Housing Costs Allowance (AHCA). This payment provides a measure of help with additional housing costs for the new permanent home following a move to a more expensive location. It is payable for nine years (inclusive of a taper in the last four years). There are currently 1300 employees in receipt of AHCA at some point in the nine year cycle. Payments to civil servants in each of the last 12 months are as follows:

2009 AHCA

Month	*Amount (£)*
January	429,135
February	421,516
March	435,458
April	322,936
May	318,271
June	325,308
July	338,113
August	323,388
September	320,108
October	338,412
November	336,157
December	327,434

Similar information from overseas areas could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 103W, on departmental marketing, how much his Department and agencies have spent on advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity in relation to the *(a)* Real Help Now and *(b)* Building Britain's Future themed campaign to date. [320460]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence has not conducted any Real Help Now or Building Britain's Future themed campaigns.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many thefts of *(a)* personal items and *(b)* items which are the property of his Department have been reported from the London offices of his Department in the last two years. [320228]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence Police have recorded 26 thefts of personal property and nine thefts of MOD departmental property, from premises in London, during the period 1 February 2008 to 28 February 2010.

Middle East: Navy

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many naval assets of each type are tasked under Operation Calash. [320970]

Bill Rammell: One Royal Navy vessel is assigned to Op Calash. This is either a Type 22 or Type 23 Frigate.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels are deployed in the middle east; and what are their tasks. [320971]

Bill Rammell: The three Royal Fleet Auxiliaries deployed in the middle east are: RFA Bayleaf, supporting UK, NATO and Coalition forces in and around the Arabian Gulf; RFA Cardigan Bay, supporting the Iraqi Training and Mentoring Team; and RFA Lyme Bay, supporting UK Mine Counter Measure forces working in the Gulf.

Trade Unions

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many days staff of his Department and its agencies spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available; and what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of such activity. [320665]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence makes certain facilities available to civilian employees who are accredited representatives or members, but not paid officials, of Trade Unions and Staff Associations recognised by the Department.

Special Paid Leave or Unpaid leave may be given to accredited Trade Union (TU) representatives, for the following TU Activities, which are specifically concerned with TU policy:

Attendance at a conference of a MOD recognised TU, whether as a delegate or trainee delegate;

Representing a MOD TU on external bodies, relevant to employment in the Civil Service e.g. at TUC meetings;

Duty as organiser or treasurer.

Members of a recognised TU, who are not elected representatives, may be allowed reasonable time off, Special Paid Leave, for the following TU activities:

a conference of a recognised MOD TU, whether as a delegate or as a trainee delegate;

TU meetings at which branches consider the proposed resolutions for annual conferences;

branch committee meetings as a committee member who is not an accredited representative; and

representing the TU on external bodies relevant to employment in the Civil Service e.g. at TUC meetings.

The information regarding the amount of days MOD employees spend on TU activity, and its cost, is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office from which companies her Department sourced temporary staff in each of the last three years; how many temporary staff her Department employed in each year; and what the monetary value of the contracts with each such company was in each such year. [320020]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Boilers: Government Assistance

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department takes to ensure that boilers to be replaced under the boiler scrappage scheme are in working order before replacement. [320304]

Joan Ruddock: The boiler to be replaced under the Boiler Scrappage Scheme must be in working order (unless the applicant is over 60) to be eligible for a voucher.

In the first place we rely on a declaration by the applicant. This is checked by an onsite audit of a percentage of applicants before the replacement boiler is installed.

There is also a signed declaration on the voucher by the installer and applicant that the boiler removed was working where this is applicable.

Carbon Emissions: Boilers

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to paragraph 7.36, page 127, of the pre-Budget report, Cm 7747, what estimate he has made of the increase in greenhouse gas emissions likely to result from the manufacture of additional boilers as a result of the greener boiler incentive. [320370]

Joan Ruddock: Based on manufacturers' data on the lifecycle costs of a boiler, we estimate the greenhouse gas emissions from a boiler's manufacture are less than 1 per cent. of its lifetime emissions, with 99 per cent. associated with the fuel consumed during its operation.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to paragraph 7.36, page 127, of the pre-Budget report, Cm 7747, what estimate he has made of the annual reduction in UK greenhouse gas emissions likely to result from the greener boiler incentive. [320371]

Joan Ruddock: We estimate the annual reduction in CO_2 emissions from the boiler scrappage scheme at 110,000 to 140,000 tonnes of CO_2 per annum.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to paragraph 7.36, page 127, of the pre-Budget report, Cm 7747, what estimate he has made of the effect on greenhouse gas emissions of the greener boiler incentive. [320372]

Joan Ruddock: The Government have estimated that there will be a saving of 110,000 to 140,000 tonnes of CO_2 per annum.

Collaboration Agreements

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent collaboration agreements on energy projects have been concluded with India; and what resources have been made available to support such collaboration. [319203]

Joan Ruddock: The UK recently announced a £4.9 million collaboration on solar technology, led by Research Councils UK with matched funding from the Indian Department of Science and Technology. Two projects will run for three years each with a focus on creating cheaper, more effective solar panel technology.

As part of the Joint Declaration by the UK and India on civil nuclear co-operation, the two countries have agreed to jointly encourage research collaboration in this area. The UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and the Indian Department of Atomic Energy will consider potential scientific areas for this enhanced collaboration at a joint meeting in the UK in March 2010. The costs of this first step will be shared between the two parties.

DFID is supporting renewable energy initiatives in remote areas through development programmes in Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. In Orissa the project is focused on provision of solar lighting and in Madhya Pradesh it is focused on biogas cooking units. These renewable initiatives are part of bigger state level programmes and comprise only a very small part of overall funding.

DFID is supporting power sector reforms in two states, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh, with an objective to achieve more efficient public sector units. The initiative in West Bengal is in partnership with the Department of Power and Non-conventional Energy Sources, Government of West Bengal (up to £11 million from June 2008 to March 2011). DFID has also supported capacity building of the power sector in West Bengal through the World Bank Trust Fund (up to $300,000 from June 2005 to March 2009). In Madhya Pradesh the power sector reforms project (2008-10, £20.4 million) supported evaluation of renewables in three key sectors (1) small scale industries, (2) municipal building and (3) water and waste water treatment. Under the next phase DFID India will be providing support to build capacity of the State Renewable Energy Agency.

DFID have also announced plans to provide the Energy and Resource Institute (TERI) with up to £10 million over the next five years. This funding will help to bring electricity and clean energy to millions of the world's poorest people by supporting renewable energy projects in India. As is routine, DFID is undertaking a full institutional assessment of TERI as part of their due diligence process before releasing funds.

Also with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, DFID is providing £285,000 through Winrock International India to develop sustainable business models for access to energy in remote rural areas.

Combined Heat and Power

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to make an announcement on the feed-in tariff rate for micro-combined heat and power. [320256]

Mr. Kidney: The feed-in tariff rate for the micro-CHP 'pilot', designed to support up to 30,000 installations with a capacity of 2kW or below, will be 10p/kWh. This rate was published in the Government's Response to the Feed-in Tariff Consultation on February 1 and can be found on the DECC website.

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx

Departmental Consultants

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much consultants employed by his Department have been paid *(a)* in total and *(b)* in reimbursable expenses since its inception. [314002]

Joan Ruddock: Since its inception on 3 October 2008 the Department of Energy and Climate Change has spent £10,624,367 on consultancy services.

Examples include advice on Combined Heat and Power, the evaluation of capital grant applications and renewable energy advice for which AEA Technology Services were paid £1,600, 000 a scoping study and the development of the Carbon Reduction Commitment registry for which the Environment Agency were paid £930,000, and analysis to support renewables for which NERA were paid £151,000.

It is not possible to identify all reimbursable expenses without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of staff in his Department are disabled; and what the average salary in his Department is of *(a)* full-time disabled staff, *(b)* full-time non-disabled staff, *(c)* part-time disabled staff and *(d)* part-time non-disabled staff. [317889]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was created in October 2008 bringing together staff from Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The number of employees within DECC and who have declared a disability status was published in the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES) by the Office for National Statistics on 20 January 2010.

An extract is shown as follows:

DECC Civil service employment and disability status[1]

	Number/percentage
Disabled	40
Non-disabled	200
Not declared or non-response	670
Total	910
All employees with known disability status	240
Disabled employees as percentage of known disability status	16.5

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

The median earnings for non-disabled and disabled employees is as follows:

£

	Non-disabled	*Disabled*
Full-time	37,710	31,900
Part-time	49,570	[1]—

[1] Data not available as disclosure could identify individuals.

Note

Data compiled as at 31 March 2009.

Eaga: Warm Front Scheme

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what mechanisms his Department uses to evaluate the performance of Eaga Ltd. in carrying out its Warm Front contractual obligations; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of those mechanisms; and how many times Eaga Ltd. has not met those obligations in each of the last two years. [319994]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 3 March 2010]:* The Department has Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in place to monitor Eaga's performance and hold regular meetings with Eaga at which time any concerns we have will be raised with them. Under the terms of the contract, my Department and Eaga will review the current KPIs this year. Furthermore, my Department engages independent Consultants and Quality Assessors, WYG, to audit Eaga's performance. Over the past two years the quarterly scorecards have shown that Eaga have principally met their key performance indicators. Provisions within the contract between the Department and Eaga allows the Department to claim and be paid service credits for any failure by Eaga to reach a set target for delivery against key KPIs. To date, the Department has not had to enforce the payment of service credits for failure to meet KPIs.

Energy Supply: Fees and Charges

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of households on social tariffs for *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity. [320518]

Mr. Kidney: Ofgem publish annual estimates of the number of customer accounts on social tariffs.

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Suppliers/CSR/Documents1/Monitoring_suppliers_social_spend_2008_09_final.pdf

At the end of March 2009, over 1 million customer accounts were on social tariffs, an increase of 118 per cent. from 460,000 customer accounts on social tariffs as at 31 March 2008.

Of the 1 million (1,004,000) customer accounts on social tariffs at the end of March 2009, 493,000 were for electricity; 470,000 were for gas and 41,000 were for duel fuel.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the price per tonne of carbon in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme in *(a)* 2012 and *(b)* 2015. [320574]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 4 March 2010]:* DECC publishes estimated values of the EU allowance price for use in appraising savings from policies that reduce emissions in the sectors covered by the EU Emissions Trading System.

The current valuation of EU allowances for 2012 provides a range between £13 and £28 with a central value of £22. In 2015 the forecast is a range between £13 and £29 with a central value of £23. These values assume an EU 20 per cent. reduction on 1990 emissions, and do not factor in the potential for a higher EU target.

The current published values have not incorporated the impact of the economic recession. Revised values are being prepared and will be published shortly.

Fuel Oil: Prices

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has received any information on increases in domestic heating oil prices arising from difficulties in the delivery of heating oil during the recent severe weather. [320337]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 4 March 2010]:* This winter we witnessed an increase in the price of heating oil, both wholesale and retail. Wholesale heating oil prices reached a peak of $729.75 (8 January 2010), a 14-month high. Retail heating oil prices reached a peak of 43.11p/l (18 January 2010), a 15-month high. While distributors faced access problems due to poor weather conditions, heating oil prices are driven primarily by demand changes and crude prices, which increased in the same period.

The peak in prices follows on from a general upward trend in the price of heating oil and crude oil since the beginning of 2009. However current prices are still well below the record levels reached in July 2008. Indeed the retail heating oil price is currently 42.20p/l (1 March 2010), 33 per cent. below the 2008 peak, while the wholesale heating oil price is currently $689/tonne (1 March 2010), 53 per cent. below the 2008 peak.

Renewable Energy

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the level of carbon dioxide emissions per unit of electricity generated in the UK in each year since 1980. [320364]

Joan Ruddock: Table 1 shows the grams of carbon dioxide emitted per unit of electricity generated by major power producers in the UK since 1980.

Table 1: Carbon dioxide emitted per unit of electricity

	gCO_2/KWh
1980	815.3
1981	793.9
1982	771.3
1983	740.4
1984	686.6
1985	688.2
1986	700.9
1987	714.2
1988	680.7
1989	658.0
1990	675.1
1991	665.5
1992	630.5
1993	563.9
1994	544.2
1995	520.3
1996	499.6
1997	463.6
1998	465.6
1999	437.6
2000	464.4
2001	478.1
2002	464.6
2003	478.4
2004	482.4
2005	476.5
2006	500.8
2007	491.9
2008	487.5

Provisional data for 2009 will be available after 29 July 2010.

Wood: Imports

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the proportion of wood pellets used in heat and electricity generation which was imported in the last 12 months. [320521]

Mr. Kidney: The Department does not hold information on the proportion of wood pellets used in heat and electricity generation that were imported. However, in 2008, three major power producers used either wood pellets or wood chip, usually co-fired with other fuels.

WALES

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many full-time equivalent staff of each grade are employed by his Department to assist special advisers. [321145]

Mr. Hain: One member of staff (administrative assistant) as part of her duties provides support to the senior civil servants and special advisers, in relation to travel and accommodation arrangements.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax: Southend

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have registered for council tax in Southend in each year since 1997. [320650]

Barbara Follett: Council tax is a property tax. Whether the resident(s) or the owner(s) of a property should be liable for council tax is for individual local authorities to decide.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers in each of the last three years. [321031]

Barbara Follett: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given on 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 747W to my hon. Friend the Member for Stockport (Ann Coffey).

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many designs for its website his Department and its predecessor has commissioned since 2005. [318656]

Barbara Follett: The Department's website was redesigned in October 2005 and in August 2007.

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [320412]

Barbara Follett: Records of the coaching received in foreign languages for staff in Communities and Local Government are not held by the Department. However, data obtained from training coordinators within the Department shows that in the last 12 months no Minister has received coaching in a foreign language and the following table gives the details of the civil servants who have received coaching in a foreign language during the last 12 months.

Language	*Cost (£)*	*Number of officials*
French	2,910	12
Chinese	1,500	2
Spanish	297.90	1

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 103W, on departmental marketing, how much his Department and its agencies have spent on advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity to the (i) Real Help Now and (ii) Building Britain's Future themed campaign to date. [320494]

Barbara Follett: The Department publishes details of its central marketing communications spend on an annual basis. Details for the last full financial year, 2008-09, are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/1298507.pdf

In 2008-09 marketing communications activity on help for homeowners and HomeBuy used the Real Help Now brand, at a total cost of £1,372,511. No marketing communications activity used the Building Britain's Future brand.

The Department will publish details of central marketing communications spend for 2009-10 at the time of its 2010 Annual Report.

Empty Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* empty homes and *(b)* homes which had been empty for more than six months there were in each region in each of the last five years. [305068]

Mr. Ian Austin: Estimates of the proportion of empty homes and the proportion of homes empty for more than six months in each region in each of the last five years are shown in the following table.

There are a number of reasons why a property might become empty, e.g. the current economic climate or where a property needs to be renovated before occupation or where it is in probate. It is therefore important to draw a distinction between properties that have been left empty for less than six months and those that are vacant for longer.

Total empty homes and homes empty for more than six months ("long term") in each region in each of the last five years as a percentage of total stock

Percentage

	2004		*2005*		*2006*		*2007*	
	Total vacants	*Long term vacants*	*Total vacants*	*Long term vacants*	*Total vacants*	*Long term vacants*	*Total vacants*	*Long term vacants*
North East	4	2	4	2	4	2	4	2
North West	4	2	4	2	5	2	5	2
Yorkshire and the Humber	4	2	4	2	4	2	6	2
East Midlands	3	1	1	2	3	1	4	1
West Midlands	4	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
East of England	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1
London	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1
South East	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1
South West	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1
England	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1

Source:

Council Taxbase and Council Taxbase Supplementary (CTB1 and CTB1S) returns from local authorities

Housing: Construction

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new *(a)* affordable homes and *(b)* homes for social rent have been built in Castle Point since 2008; and how many homes of each type are planned to be built in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [318083]

Mr. Ian Austin: The latest data on total affordable housing supply relate to 2008-09. In that year there were 10 affordable homes provided through acquisitions.

Information on planned housing is available in 'Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks'.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to answer Question 305068, on empty homes, tabled on 3 December 2009. [319594]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have now replied to the hon. Member's question.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set out, with statistical information as closely related to Chorley constituency as possible, the effect on that constituency of the policies of his Department since 1997. [314235]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has introduced a range of policies and initiatives since 1997. The available statistical information relates to the Chorley Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area.

In terms of police recorded crime, data prior to 2002-03 is not directly comparable because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. Between 2002-03 and 2008-09, total recorded crime in Chorley fell by 13 per cent. More specifically:

Sexual offences: down 21 per cent. (down 34 per cent. in last year).

Robbery: down 43 per cent. (down 23 per cent. in last year).

Burglary: down 44 per cent (down 1 per cent. in last year).

Offences against vehicles: down 56 per cent. (down 12 per cent. in last year).

Other theft offences: down 12 per cent. (down 5 per cent. in last year).

Criminal damage: down 1 per cent. (down 2 per cent. in last year).

Drug offences: up 22 per cent. (up 9 per cent. in last year) (there has been increased recording of drug offences which is mainly attributable to the increased use of police powers to issue cannabis warnings).

Violence against the person rose by 71 per cent. between 2002-03 and 2008-09. Between 2007-08 and 2008-09 it fell by 1 per cent. It reached a peak at 1,902 offences in 2004-05 and has subsequently fallen to 1,302 offences in 2008-09 (a fall of 32 per cent).

Chorley comes within the Lancashire Southern Basic Command Unit. Lancashire Southern BCU had 493 police officers as at 30 March 2009. The number of police officers has decreased by seven since 2003. Comparisons with 1997 for Lancashire Southern BCU are not available. There were 77 Police Community Support Officers as at 30 March 2009 while there were none in existence in 1997.

The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 Census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/

Cleethorpes

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Cleethorpes constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997. [315242]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has introduced a range of policies and initiatives since 1997. However, it is not always possible to quantify their effects particularly at constituency level. The available statistical information therefore relates to North East Lincolnshire.

In terms of police recorded crime in North East Lincolnshire, between 2002-03 and 2008-09, total recorded crime fell by 26 per cent. More specifically:

Violence against the person—up 16 per cent. (down 1 per cent. in last year)

Sexual offences—down 30 per cent. (up 8 per cent. in last year)

Robbery—down 33 per cent. (down 17 per cent. in last year)

Burglary—down 38 per cent. (down 5 per cent. in last year)

Offences against vehicles—down 62 per cent. (down 41 per cent. in last year)

Other theft offences—down 12 per cent. (up 3 per cent. in last year)

Criminal damage—down 17 per cent. (down 18 per cent. in last year)

Drug offences—up 16 per cent. (down 26 per cent. in last year) (there has been increased recording of drug offences which was mainly attributable to the increased use of police powers to issue cannabis warnings).

Data prior to 2002-03 are not directly comparable because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. Additionally, no data at borough level is available prior to 1998-99.

Cleethorpes comes within the North East Lincolnshire Basic Command Unit. North East Lincolnshire BCU had 263 police officers as at 30 March 2009. The number of police officers has decreased by 115 since 2003. This decrease in numbers is due to the transfer of various functions from divisions to central services i.e. Command Centres, Traffic Units etc. Also, the recruitment of civilian Investigation Officers and Detention Officers across Humberside Police Force has contributed to the drop in police officer numbers. Comparisons with 1997 for North East Lincolnshire BCU are not available. There were 49 Police Community Support Officers as at 30 March 2009 while there were none in existence in 1997.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 saw positive effects with the statutory duty to create a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). The CDRP (Safer Communities North East Lincolnshire) has brought new ways of working in a cross cutting way with the police, council and other key stakeholders and genuine partnership working to help tackle complex issues.

The CDRP paved the way for a number of community safety initiatives which have benefited Cleethorpes. North East Lincolnshire has received funding under the Home Office Crime Reduction Programme and successor initiatives including the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund and the Basic Command Unit Fund. It has also benefited from other targeted Home Office funding streams which support work on drugs and alcohol harm reduction, domestic abuse, neighbourhood crime and justice, and antisocial behaviour.

The Home Office Partnership Support Programme helped review CDRP delivery structures and the future strategic development of the district's CCTV system. North East Lincolnshire is currently in receipt of funding from the Vigilance Programme which is helping to accelerate the development of Integrated Offender

Management. This is seen as the next step in achieving further sustainable reductions in crime across the district.

Before 1997 there were no bespoke powers to tackle antisocial behaviour but there are now a range of powers to deal with this issue. These include Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and Designated Public Places Orders (DPPO) from the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.

North East Lincolnshire's CDRP and wider partnership approach has been recognised nationally as effective practice. For example, the delivery of its Family Intervention Programme, which joins-up the resources of several Government Departments, and its work on reducing antisocial behaviour and providing visible neighbourhood justice.

The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 Census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

Identity and Passport Service: Contracts

Dr. Palmer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he made an assessment of the merits of incorporating the specification for the Check and Send service in the requirements of the Identity and Passport Service tender notice for the procurement of front-office identity services. [319962]

Meg Hillier: The following statement was made in the Official Journal of European Union (OJEU) Notice with regards to Front Office Services:

> "IPS seeks expressions of interest from Service Providers for securing concessions to provide Front Office Services (FOS) to members of the public in connection with identity products issued by IPS and other government departments. These services may subsume the "Check & Send" assisted application process for UK passports."

This gives the agency the option to include the "Check and Send" service as part of the Front Office Services if deemed appropriate after further discussion with the suppliers down selected at the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) stage.

Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to North East Milton Keynes constituency, the effects on Milton Keynes of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [316041]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has introduced a range of policies and initiatives since 1997. However, it is not always possible to quantify their effects particularly at constituency level. The available statistical information therefore relates to the Milton Keynes crime and disorder reduction partnership area.

In terms of police recorded crime in Milton Keynes, between 2002-03 and 2008-09, total recorded crime rose by 8 per cent. More specifically:

Violence against the person—up 85 per cent. (up 1 per cent. in last year)

Sexual offences—down 11 per cent. (down 4 per cent. in last year)

Robbery—up 42 per cent. (up 4 per cent. in last year)

Burglary—down 12 per cent. (down 2 per cent. in last year)

Offences against vehicles—down 24 per cent. (no change in last year)

Other theft offences—down 4 per cent. (down 4 per cent. in last year)

Criminal damage—up 2 per cent. (down 9 per cent. in last year)

Drug offences—up 134 per cent. (up 26 per cent. in last year) (there has been increased recording of drug offences which is mainly attributable to the increased use of police powers to issue cannabis warnings).

Data prior to 2002-03 are not directly comparable because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. Additionally, no data at borough level are available prior to 1998-99.

Milton Keynes Basic Command Unit had 419 police officers as at 30 March 2009. The number of police officers has increased by 73 since 2003. Comparisons with 1997 for Milton Keynes BCU are not available. There were 73 police community support officers as at 30 March 2009 while there were none in existence in 1997.

Antisocial behaviour

Milton Keynes is to receive an additional £44,000 to tackle antisocial behaviour as part of the joint announcement in November 2009 by the Home Secretary and the Communities Secretary of additional funding for tackling ASB.

Drug-related offending

Since the inception of the national Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP) in 2003, Milton Keynes has received Home Office funding to deliver the DIP programme enabling it to tackle and reduce drug-related crime through targeting and steering individuals into treatment to reduce their offending. In 2009-10 Milton Keynes received grant of £166,338.

Tackling knives

Thames Valley is part of the Tackling Knife Crime and Serious Youth Violence Programme (TKAPIISYV) and has been allocated £250,000 from the TKAP programme for 2009-10. This includes work with young people and the community to prevent and educate about knife crime and serious youth violence. It will include the 13 to 24-year-old offender group who in Milton Keynes have a statistically significant impact on total knife crime.

Domestic violence

Milton Keynes has received funding and support from the Home Office and Government office for the south-east (GOSE) to tackle domestic violence. This includes Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference MARAC funding 2008-09 (£15,000), Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) funding 2007-08 (£20,000), Domestic Violence project 2003-05 (£20,000) and A and E information sharing initiative 2006-07 (£10,000).

Milton Keynes is benefiting from GOSE regional support on improving performance of MARACs through the commissioning of tailored MARAC chair training providing them with the tools and skills to develop their MARAC and improve delivery of NI32—reducing repeat victimisation. The Home Office have provided NI32 data collection workshops for MARAC co-ordinators.

GOSE organises a regional Domestic Violence Co-ordinators forum bringing together the local authority co-ordinators (including Milton Keynes) on a quarterly basis to share good practice, provide them with an opportunity to keep up to date with—and help inform—Government policy, discuss emerging issues and resolutions, encourage new ideas and provide mutual support.

Alcohol related violence

GOSE provided Milton Keynes with advice in the development of their Alcohol Strategy. Milton Keynes attends GOSE's regional alcohol forum which is held every two months. Where the work of the Department of Health colleagues, the HO alcohol lead, DCSF young people's alcohol lead and TKAPIISYV local advisor in ensuring the Most Serious Violence, Alcohol and Health agendas are pulled together to deliver reductions in violent crime. Milton Keynes £9,700 received from the Alcohol-related Partnership Activity Fund in 2008-09.

Partnership support programme

The Home Office and GOSE made a joint Partnership Programme intervention in Milton Keynes in 2007 to help support improvements in the Milton Keynes Community Safety Partnership. Following agreement of its recommendations there has been improvement in partnership working to deliver on key aspects of the community safety agenda. Milton Keynes received £20,000 in 2008-09 from the Partnership Support Programme.

Police BCU funding Milton Keynes BCU received an allocation of £150,204 for 2009-10.

Safer and Stronger Communities Fund (capital) grant

In 2009-10 Milton Keynes received £73,000.

The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/

Thanet

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to South Thanet constituency, the effects on South Thanet of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [315633]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has introduced a range of policies and initiatives since 1997. However, it is not always possible to quantify their effects particularly at constituency level. The available statistical information therefore relates to the Thanet Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area.

In terms of police recorded crime in Thanet, between 2002-03 and 2008-09, total recorded crime fell by 3 per cent. More specifically:

Violence against the person - up 27 per cent. (down 6 per cent. in last year)

Sexual offences - up 10 per cent. (down 25 per cent. in last year)

Robbery - up 12 per cent. (up 17 per cent. in last year)

Burglary - down 17 per cent. (down 7 per cent. in last year)

Offences against vehicles - down 34 per cent. (down 15 per cent. in last year)

Other theft offences - no change (no change in last year)

Criminal damage - no change (down 19 per cent. in last year)

Drug offences - down 28 per cent. (down 22 per cent. in last year)

Data prior to 2002-03 are not directly comparable because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. Additionally, no data at borough level is available prior to 1998-99.

With regard to police numbers, the available information relates to the East Kent Basic Command Unit which had 448 police officers as at 30 March 2009. The number of police officers has increased by 17 since 2007 (different boundaries where in place prior to this). Comparisons with 1997 for East Kent BCU are not available. There were 67 Police Community Support Officers as at 30 March 2009 while there were none in existence in 2000.

ASB

Kent is to receive an additional £64,000 to tackle AntiSocial Behaviour as part of the joint announcement in November 2009 by the Home Secretary and the Communities Secretary of additional funding for tackling ASB.

Tackling Knives

Kent is part of the Tackling Knife Crime and Serious Youth Violence Programme (TKAPIISYV). This includes work with young people and the community to prevent and educate about knife crime and serious youth violence. Kent has been allocated £100,000 from the TKAP programme for 2009-10.

Alcohol Related Violence

Thanet is part of the Alcohol Partnership Support Programme receiving funding for 2008-09 of £30, 000 and 2009 -10 of £30,000 for alcohol initiatives and communications. £25,000 has been used to assist Thanet in putting in place the necessary components for the successful multi agency running of the night time economy or other meeting place. The remaining £5,000 is for communication work.

Domestic Violence

For 2009-10 GOSE has provided Kent with £40,000 funding from the Home Office Private Place Violence regional funds for Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs). The IDVA works with and supports high risk victims of domestic violence.

In 2008-09 GOSE provided Kent with £35,000 funding to increase their MARAC coverage across the region, and also funded MARAC training of £20,000 and IDVA funding of £40,000. Thanet is served by the East Kent MARAC covering Thanet and Canterbury. Thanet is benefiting from GOSE regional support on improving performance of MARACs through the commissioning of tailored MARAC chair training providing them with the tools and skills to develop their MARAC and improve delivery of NI32 - reducing repeat victimisation. The Home Office have provided NI32 data collection workshops for MARAC co-ordinators.

Drug-related offending

Since the inception of the national Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP) in 2003, Kent has received Home Office funding to deliver the DIP programme enabling it to tackle and reduce drug-related crime through targeting and steering individuals into treatment to reduce their offending. In 2009-10 Kent received a grant of £1,168,644.

Migration Impact Fund (MIF)

The MIF will be targeted at projects which have identified innovative solutions to migration related pressures. Funding will be allocated to local projects from Government Offices working closely with local partners. It will be targeted at projects which have identified innovative solutions to migration related pressures - where possible involving and benefiting a number of local services. Thanet will benefit from MIF through monies that were awarded to Kent county council.

(a) Thanet Specific

Czech/Roma Integration - £70,000 in respect of year one (2009-10) and £90,000 provisionally awarded for year two (2010-11) focused which is specifically Thanet

(b) Kent award, which will include some benefit to Thanet

£210,000 in respect of year one (2009-10) and £210,000 (in aggregate, as per year 1) provisionally awarded for year two (2010-11); to promote the participation and inclusion of new migrants in Kent; mobile information and advice service to hard to reach rural migrant workers; and one-stop-shop for migrants

The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 22 February 2010

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Food Supply

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department has provided to local food chain initiatives in the last 12 months; and which such initiatives received that funding. [315961]

[Official Report, 9 February 2010, Vol. 505, c. 829W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Jim Fitzpatrick:

Errors have been identified in the table and first and second paragraphs of my written answer to the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 9 February 2010. The RDPE spend cited for the Yorkshire and Humber regional development agency was incorrect. The correct table should have been:

RDA	*RDPE spend (£)*
North East RDA	2,656,337
Advantage West Midlands	583,228
East Midlands	648,847
South West RDA	2,850,000
North West RDA	1,776,242
South East RDA	2,590,536
East England DA	301,476
Yorkshire and Humber	4,457,098
Total	15,863,764

The first paragraph was as follows:

During the past 12 months (from 4 February 2009) £11,806,666 has been committed under the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) to support local food chain initiatives. This funding is administered by the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) and the breakdown of spend by region is as follows:

The correct paragraph should have been:

During the past 12 months (from 4 February 2009) £15,863,764 has been committed under the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) to support local food chain initiatives. This funding is administered by the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) and the breakdown of spend by region is as follows:

The second paragraph was as follows:

In the same period, RDA's have also provided £4,385,078 from their single pot to support local food chain initiatives, to which DEFRA makes a contribution. The RDPE and single pot money is supporting a range of initiatives including the funding of delivery organisations in the region, support for individual food producers and retail outlets, food hubs and farmers' markets.

The correct paragraph should have been:

In the same period, RDA's have also provided £5,710,071 from their single pot, to which DEFRA makes a contribution. The RDPE and single pot money is supporting a range of initiatives including the funding of delivery organisations in the region, support for individual food producers and retail outlets, food hubs and farmers' markets.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Binyam Mohamed

Mr. Andrew Tyrie (Chichester) (Con): The Foreign Secretary said that our most basic values as a nation are at stake here. I agree. It is only by getting to the truth about all this that we can bring closure to the whole sorry episode that is now called extraordinary rendition and in which the UK appears to have allowed itself to become complicit in kidnapping and torture. Indeed, a judge in another case said that we had facilitated a rendition, so the issue of facilitation, in principle, is no longer in doubt. Given all that, will the Foreign Secretary now finally discuss with the Prime Minister the need for a judge-led inquiry, which is supported by Lord Carlile, who is the Government's own anti-terrorism watchdog, the Leader of the Opposition and the Liberal Democrats, as well as many others?

[Official Report, 10 February 2010, Vol. 505, c. 923-924.]

Letter of correction from Mr. David Miliband:

I am concerned to clarify a potential confusion in one sentence of my answer to the hon. Member for Chichester (Mr. Tyrie) on 10 February 2010. It concerns the difference between "rendition" and "extraordinary rendition", the former of which can be lawful (e.g. when someone is transferred to safety) and the latter of which is unreservedly to be condemned because it normally is understood to mean a transfer where there is a real risk of torture. I would not want my attempt to distinguish the process of rendition, or extraordinary rendition, from torture, to lead to confusion between rendition and extraordinary rendition.

The full statement made by me was as follows:

David Miliband: I am interested to hear that the Leader of the Opposition is recommitting himself to a judicial inquiry—I shall pursue it with Opposition Front-Bench Members to see whether it is the case. The Government have discussed whether a judicial inquiry would be right, but have concluded that it would not be right, not least because the judicial system in this country is performing a very effective function in the courts, which is where it belongs. I also want to put it on the record that a dangerous confusion is emerging between rendition—sometimes called extraordinary rendition—and torture. They are not the same thing, although both are reprehensible and contrary to the laws and spirit of this country. However, it is important that we do not confuse the two. In Mr. Mohamed's case, there are allegations that he was subject to both, but they are not the same; they are separate. However, they are both wrong and they both need to be addressed fully. In respect of the hon. Gentleman's main point, however, I do not think that the conclusion to be drawn from today's events is that a judicial inquiry is necessary; I draw the conclusion that the judiciary is performing its function extremely vigilantly.

The correct statement should have been:

David Miliband: I am interested to hear that the Leader of the Opposition is recommitting himself to a judicial inquiry—I shall pursue it with Opposition Front-Bench Members to see whether it is the case. The Government have discussed whether a judicial inquiry would be right, but have concluded that it would not be right, not least because the judicial system in this country is performing a very effective function in the courts, which is where it belongs. I also want to put it on the record that a dangerous confusion is emerging between extraordinary rendition and torture. They are not the same thing, although both are reprehensible and contrary to the laws and spirit of this country. However, it is important that we do not confuse the two. In Mr. Mohamed's case, there are allegations that he was subject to both, but they are not the same; they are separate. However, they are both wrong and they both need to be addressed fully. In respect of the hon. Gentleman's main point, however, I do not think that the conclusion to be drawn from today's events is that a judicial inquiry is necessary; I draw the conclusion that the judiciary is performing its function extremely vigilantly.

DEFENCE

RAF Lyneham: Weather

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how many days RAF Lyneham was closed as a result of recent adverse weather conditions. [315787]

[Official Report, 10 February 2010, Vol. 505, c. 970-971W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Bill Rammell:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for North Wiltshire (Mr. Gray) on 10 February 2010. The total number of hours during which RAF Lyneham was closed as a result of adverse weather conditions was incorrect. The correct answer should have been:

Bill Rammell: Between 1 and 17 January, RAF Lyneham closed only once on 6 January between 2.40 am and 3.12 pm, a total of 12 and a half hours. This was to enable the runway to be cleared of snow and ice. This limited period of closure was due to the fact that Lyneham has a short runway and clearance could be completed quickly.

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 23 February 2010

HOME DEPARTMENT

Terrorism

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been questioned and been *(a)* cautioned and *(b)* subsequently prosecuted in relation to terrorism offences in (i) Ribble Valley constituency, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) the UK in each of the last five years. [314349]

[Official Report, 29 January 2010, Vol. 504, c. 1130-131 W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. David Hanson:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Ribble Valley (Mr. Evans) on 29 January 2010. The Minister wrote to Mr. Evans and the Editor of the *Official Report* on 15 February 2010, but we are aware that the correction lacked clarity, and this submission seeks to resolve the situation.

The full answer given was as follows:

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office does not hold statistics on the number of individuals questioned in relation to terrorism offences. In the last five years the police have issued the following number of cautions for terrorism offences:

	Number of cautions issued
2004-05	4
2005-06	1
2006-07	0
2007-08	2
2008-09	4

The Home Office collates statistics on the number of terrorism arrests, charges and convictions and these are included in a Bulletin which was published for the first time on 13 May 2009 (Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008). The data contained in the Bulletin relates to Great Britain and not specific areas. The first edition of the Bulletin is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0409.pdf

The number of cautions as detailed above are contained in the second issue of the Bulletin which was published on 26 November 2009 and is available via the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1809.pdf

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office does not hold statistics on the number of individuals questioned in relation to terrorism offences. Current guidelines from the Crown Prosecution Service make clear that individuals suspected of terrorism offences are not eligible for cautions following arrest.

The Home Office collates statistics on the number of terrorism arrests, charges and convictions and these are included in a Bulletin which was published for the first time on 13 May 2009 (Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008). The data contained in the Bulletin relate to Great Britain and not specific areas. The first edition of the Bulletin is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0409.pdf

The second edition of the Bulletin, published on 26 November 2009, is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1809.pdf

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 24 February 2010

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Turkey: EU Enlargement

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made on negotiations on the accession of Turkey to the EU; and if he will make a statement. [314495]

[Official Report, 1 February 2010, Vol. 505, c. 36W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Chris Bryant:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 1 February 2010 on accession negotiations with Turkey. The reference in the first paragraph to the number of accession chapters opened by Turkey was incorrect. The original answer stated:

"In December 2009 the EU agreed to open the Environment Chapter of the accession negotiations with Turkey. Turkey has now opened 11 out of 35 accession Chapters."

The correct answer should have been:

Chris Bryant: In December 2009 the EU agreed to open the Environment Chapter of the accession negotiations with Turkey. Turkey has now opened 12 out of 35 accession Chapters, of which one is closed. The European Commission's most recent Progress Report for 2009 on Turkey's EU accession process noted several steps forward, for example in addressing the Kurdish and Armenian questions, a new judicial reform strategy, and improving energy security.

During my hon. Friend the Minister for Europe's visit to Istanbul he reiterated the UK's support for Turkey's EU membership and urged Turkey to continue making the necessary reforms and to abide by its commitments under the Ankara Protocol.

At the same time the report noted that renewed efforts on further reforms were needed and challenged Turkey to step up the pace of their reform programme and proactively contribute to a Cyprus settlement.

Ministerial Correction

Friday 26 February 2010

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Databases

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1003W, on Equality and Human Rights Commission: databases, what the budget is for the new equality measurement framework database; whether it will hold personal data; what anonymised Census data it will use; whether a privacy impact assessment for that database will be prepared; and which organisations will be asked to provide data for that database. [314959]

[Official Report, 22 February 2010, Vol. 506, c. 41W.]

Letter of correction from Maria Eagle:

Errors have been identified in the response given to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 22 February 2010. The £2 million figure quoted for the budget of the Equality and Human Rights Commission for the development of the Equality Measurement Framework tool (EMF) was incorrect and should instead read £200,000.

The full correct answer should have been:

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission budget for the development of the Equality Measurement Framework tool (EMF) is £200,000.

The plan is that no personal data will be stored or used within the context of the framework and because the data will be drawn from existing surveys most of which is already accessible to members of the public there will be no requirement for a privacy impact assessment.

The framework will not be using anonymised census information.

The intention is that data will be drawn from the following organisations: The Office for National Statistics, the NHS, the devolved Administrations, Government Departments, local government and the police force.

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 1 March 2010

WORK AND PENSIONS

Jobcentre Plus: Compensation

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many compensation payments Jobcentre Plus have made through their Special Payment Scheme in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* the Highlands and *(d)* Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey in each of the last three years; and how much was paid out in each area in each of those years. [307149]

[Official Report, 13 January 2010, Vol. 503, c. 1033W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Jim Knight:

Errors have been identified in the reply given by the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus to the written answer given to the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 13 January 2010.

The correct answer should have been:

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many compensation payments Jobcentre Plus has made through their Special Payment Scheme in (a) the UK, (b) Scotland, (c) the Highlands and (d) Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey in each of the last three years; and how much was paid out in each area in each of those years. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Jobcentre Plus Special Payments Scheme is part of a wider scheme operated by the Department for Work and Pensions. Details are contained in the Financial Redress for Maladministration Guide, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library.

The data below provide the information you requested in relation to (a) Great Britain (DWP does not administrate payments in Northern Ireland), and (b) Scotland.

(a) The number of compensation payments made across the GB and how much was paid out.

GB special payments

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Compensation payments made	5,135	4,343	7,389
Amount paid (£)	1,778,407	1,664,092	2,489,442

(b) The number of compensation payments made across Scotland and how much was paid out.

Scotland special payments

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Compensation payments made	258	280	470
Amount paid (£)	94,063	58,134	168,510

I am not in a position to provide a response to Questions (c) & (d) as we do not hold data in that format.

CABINET OFFICE

Iraq Committee of Inquiry: Mass Media

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what arrangements are in place for the provision of footage obtained from the broadcast pool camera at the Iraq Inquiry to news agencies and news providers; [314411]

(2) if she will make it her policy to ensure that all video news agencies providers have access to low-resolution footage from the broadcast pool camera at the Iraq Inquiry. [314412]

[Official Report, 9 February 2010, Vol. 505, c. 894-95W.]

Letter of correction from Tessa Jowell:

Errors have been identified in the response give to the hon. Member for Maldon and East Chelmsford (Mr. Whittingdale) on 9 February 2010, relating to the cost and availability of broadcasts from the Iraq inquiry.

The correct answer should have been:

Tessa Jowell: The Cabinet Office is not responsible for the broadcast footage of the Iraq inquiry. The UK Broadcasting Pool, a partnership between the BBC, Sky News and ITN, is responsible for distributing footage from their cameras in the inquiry's hearing room. Other broadcasters would need to make arrangements with the pool, not the Government or the inquiry. There is already an agreement to provide footage to all Iraqi broadcasters at reduced cost.

The Cabinet Office, as the sponsoring Department for the inquiry, has a contract with the pool to receive footage for use on the Iraq inquiry website, which can be viewed by the public for free.

Departmental Computer Software

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what her policy is in respect of the installation and use of *(a)* Internet Explorer, *(b)* Firefox and *(c)* Opera website browsers by Government departments. [318248]

[Official Report, 24 February 2010, Vol. 506, c. 603W.]

Letter of correction from Angela E. Smith:

Errors have been identified in the response given to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 24 February 2010. The words "such as Firefox and Opera" and "such as Internet Explorer" were incorrectly included in the answer.

The correct answer should have been:

Angela E. Smith: Government policy regarding installation and use of web browsers is that all decisions must be in line with value for money requirements. In addition, the Open Source, Open Standards, Re-use strategy requires Departments to consider open source browsers on a level basis with proprietary browsers.

The strategy can be found at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/318020/open_source.pdf

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 3 March 2010

HEALTH

Departmental NDPBs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for how many non-departmental public bodies his Department is responsible. [314255]

[Official Report, 1 February 2010, Vol. 505, c. 55-56W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Phil Hope:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) on 1 February 2010. I am sorry that the answer said that the Department had nine strategic health authorities; it should have referred to nine special health authorities.

The correct answer should have been:

Phil Hope: The Department has one agency, 10 executive non-departmental public bodies, nine special health authorities and 30 advisory non-departmental public bodies. Further detailed information is contained in the 'Department of Health's Public Bodies 2009', a copy of which has been placed in the Library. This document is also available on the Department's website:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_111365

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 4 March 2010

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change: International Cooperation

Mr. Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Congleton of 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 628W, on climate change: Copenhagen, what his most recent assessment is of the likelihood of effective global action to limit climate change; and if he will make a statement. [318584]

[Official Report, 1 March 2010, Vol. 506, c. 903W.]

Letter of correction from Joan Ruddock:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Glasgow, North-East (Mr. Bain) on 1 March 2010. Paragraph 1 of the answer made reference to 69 countries accounting for nearly 90 per cent. of global emissions. It should have said that these countries account for 80 per cent. of global emissions.

The correct answer should have been:

Joan Ruddock: Since Copenhagen, we have seen support for the Copenhagen Accord grow. As of 22 February 2010, 69 countries had listed targets/actions in the Accord to limit their greenhouse gas emissions. These countries account for 80 per cent. of global emissions. This willingness of many countries to take substantial domestic action, demonstrates that—with ambition—the international community has the opportunity to come together to tackle dangerous climate change effectively.

But there is still more to do. We must continue to encourage these countries to deliver the most ambitious end of their offers if we are to deliver our goal of limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius. And we will continue to campaign for countries to include these offers in a comprehensive legally binding treaty.

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

SIXTH SERIES **VOLUME 506**

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Printed indexes to Hansard

This index is produced from the House of Commons Library's Parliamentary Information Management Services (PIMS). It contains references to all material in the bound volume of Hansard.

- At the end of the session a sessional index is produced containing references to material in the bound volumes for the whole session.

Indexes on the Parliamentary website

Volume indexes covering material from the beginning of the 1999/2000 session will also appear on the Parliamentary website at http://www.parliament.uk with links to the full text of Hansard.

SCOPE

The indexes include entries covering:

- The content of all material recorded in Hansard, including debates, procedural motions and questions.
- The names of all Members contributing to the Parliamentary business recorded in Hansard.
- The names of some types of Parliamentary business whenever they occur in Hansard. These are 'Ministerial statements', 'Business statements', 'Petitions', 'Opposition days' and 'Estimates days'.

ARRANGEMENT

- All headings are in one word-by-word alphabetical sequence, with Members' contribution entries distinguished from other entries by italics.
- Where a Member contributes to Parliamentary business and is the subject of Parliamentary business there are separate contribution and subject entries, the subject entry coming first.
- Entries beginning 'Mac' and 'Mc' are sorted in one sequence as 'Mac'.
- 'St', when abbreviated for Saint, is filed as 'Saint'.
- Numbers are filed as if spelt out, e.g. '10 Downing Street' as if 'Ten Downing Street'.

HEADINGS

Choice of headings

- *Specificity*—Entries summarise the overall content of a debate or question as specifically as the various PIMS thesauruses allow. For example, Education, Higher education, or the name of a particular university is used depending on the breadth of the item.
- *Name headings*—Specific entries are included for the names of people, places, institutions, organisations, committees, programmes, initiatives, publications and legislation when these constitute the overall subject of an item.
- *Organisations and subjects*—Organisation entries are preferred for material about the general performance, administration and staffing of an organisation (for example, Identity and Passport Service, Standards). Subject entries are preferred for what organisations do as part of their duties (for example, Passports, Fees and charges).

Geographical coverage

- *Subject headings*—Subject headings are assumed to refer to the whole of England, Great Britain or the United Kingdom unless otherwise stated.
- *Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales*—Material relating to the whole of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales is indexed under these headings.
- *Places within the UK*—Material about specific towns, areas and institutions is entered under the name of the specific town, area or institution.
- *Foreign countries*—Most material relating to foreign countries is collected under the name of that country. Some additional material may be found under the names of—groups of countries, areas within countries, geographical features, place names associated with particular issues, politicians and heads of state, international bodies, and institutions and companies operating in those countries.
- *EC/EU material*—General material about the European Union and European institutions as bodies is entered under 'European Union' and the named individual institutions. Material about what the Union and institutions are doing or propose to do is entered under various subject headings beginning 'EC' such as 'EC environmental policy'.

Parliamentary material and business

- *Material about Parliament*—This is indexed under 'Parliament', the names of the two Houses, the 'Palace of Westminster' and parts of the Parliamentary estate (such as 'Portcullis House').
- *Committees*—Material about committees is indexed under 'Committees', types of committee (such as 'Select committees') and the names of individual committees (such as 'Home Affairs Select Committee').
- *Parliamentary proceedings/procedures*—Material discussing these is indexed under the specific type of proceeding (such as 'Parliamentary questions' or 'Oral questions'), procedure (such as 'Calling of Members') or issue (such as 'Unparliamentary expressions').
- *Legislation*—Entries for Parliamentary proceedings on bills and statutory instruments are entered under their titles. Where the lead word of the bill or statutory instrument does not provide a full or clear indication of the subject there are additional subject entries when the bill or instrument is debated. For example, debates on the 'Child Support Pensions and Social Security Bill' have entries under 'Pensions' and 'Social security benefits' as well as under the title of the Bill.
- *Members' names*—These are given in the form by which the Member prefers to be known.
- *Speaker and Chair*—Contributions by the Speaker and deputies are brought together under the heading 'Speaker and deputies'. Contributions from the chair during Committees of the Whole House are brought together under 'Chairman of Committee of the Whole House'. Significant rulings and statements (as opposed to routine comments) are indicated by the sub-heading 'Rulings and statements' in both cases.

Cross references

- *See* references indicate that all the material has been entered under another heading.
- *See also* references indicate that additional information may be found under another heading.

REFERENCES

- References in the indexes are to columns rather than pages.
- References to debates and petitions, but not questions, are accompanied by the date of the item.
- There are separate sequences in Hansard for the material taken on the floor of the House, Westminster Hall sittings, written statements, written questions and ministerial corrections:
  - References consisting of a number by itself indicate material taken on the floor of the House.
  - References ending in 'wh' indicate Westminster Hall sittings.
  - References ending in 'ws' indicate written statements.
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  - References ending in 'p' indicate written petitions.
  - References ending in 'mc' indicate ministerial corrections. (Where a volume number is given, the correction appears in a later volume).
- References under all headings except the names of Members contributing to Parliamentary business and the titles of legislation are listed in one numerical sequence irrespective of whether the material is taken on the floor of the House, is discussed at a Westminster Hall sitting, is a written statement or is a written question.
- References under the names of Members contributing to Parliamentary business and the titles of legislation are listed in numerical sequence under the following headings:
  - *Chamber Debates* (which includes interventions and points of order as well as significant contributions to debates);
  - *Westminster Hall Debates* (covering all debates held as part of the Westminster Hall sittings);
  - *Written Statements* (consisting of ministerial statements issued in writing); and
  - *Questions* (which includes all written, oral and urgent questions).

ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used in connection with the progress of bills:

- 1R = First reading
- 2R = Second reading
- Com = Committee stage
- Rep = Report stage
- 3R = Third reading
- res = resolution
- amendt(s) = amendment(s)
- * = matter taken formally without debate or division
- (HL) = Bill starting in House of Lords
- (SP) = Bill in Scottish Parliament.

Parliamentary background

- The Parliamentary website at http://www.parliament.uk contains a range of information about Parliament and the full text of some Parliamentary papers and proceedings including Hansard.
- Information on current Parliamentary business is provided in the House of Commons Information Office *Weekly Information Bulletin*, available on the website and from The Stationery Office (020 7873 8499).
- Further information on Parliamentary proceedings and procedures is available from the House of Commons Information Office (020 7219 4272).

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